



OBI-WAN KENOBI VS PADMÉ AMIDALA!
JAMES ARNOLD TAYLOR AND CATHERINE TABER SPEAK OUT



STAR WARS GUIDE



DARK SIDE/ LIGHT SIDE?

**MATT LANTER AND ASHLEY ECKSTEIN ON
ANAKIN AND AHSOKA'S DATE WITH DESTINY!**

**PLUS INSIDER UNRAVELS
THE MYSTERIES OF THE FORCE**



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**"A Jedi uses the Force for
knowledge and defense. Never for attack."
—Yoda, *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back***

The Force is strong in this issue of *Star Wars Insider*! Why? Well, we decided it was high time we looked at the mystical energy field that gives the Jedi—and the Sith—their awesome powers. I can't promise that we'll unlock all the mysteries of the Force—not until Yoda himself joins our writing team—but we'll do our best! If you've ever reached out toward a TV remote that's just out of your grasp or attempted to suggest to a weak-minded co-worker that it's their turn to make the coffee, then this issue of *Star Wars Insider* is dedicated to you.

The Force is strong with our star names this issue too, as three Jedi are interviewed about the next big *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* story arc! Not only do we have Anakin Skywalker and Ahsoka Tano, AKA Matt Lanter and Ashley Eckstein, but we also have Obi-Wan Kenobi—James Arnold Taylor—in an exclusive chat with the lovely Catherine Taber, who plays Padmé. Sith Lords beware!

Don't forget to send in your questions for *Star Wars* author Timothy Zahn (details are on our Facebook page) and get ready for the

long-awaited return of original fiction in the next issue of *Insider*!

Sadly the tail-end of 2010 saw the passing of a man to whom the *Star Wars* franchise owes a great deal: the incomparable Irvin Kershner.



SOUND PEOPLE!

Ben Burtt and Matt
Wood discuss life
in the sound
department
on page 50.

His stunning direction of
The Empire Strikes Back was
instrumental in ensuring that the *Star
Wars* saga would continue in an exciting
new direction. We pay tribute to him on
page 8. Thank you, Mr. Kershner. You will
be missed.

May the Force be with you all,

Jonathan Wilkins
Jonathan Wilkins,
Editor



DOCKING BAY

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS

THIS ISSUE....

"YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE MADE IT AS OBI-WAN'S PADAWAN, BUT YOU MIGHT MAKE IT AS MINE."—ANAKIN SKYWALKER, *STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS*

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COVER STORY!

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NEWSSTAND EDITION



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We preview upcoming episodes of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* as the Jedi explore the mysteries of Mortis, and remember *The Empire Strikes Back* director Irvin Kershner.

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Celebrating the very best of *Star Wars* fandom from around the world!



LAUNCH

ENCOUNTER ON MORTIS!

Much like Luke Skywalker, the *Star Wars* saga is full of surprises. Whether it's Darth Vader revealing his true identity to Luke, or Luke's discovery that Leia is his sister, and even Vader's role in the formation of the Rebel Alliance in

The Force Unleashed, there's always a game-changing surprise just around the corner.

Star Wars: The Clone Wars serves up the latest shocking revelation with the forthcoming Mortis story-arc breaking

new ground and revealing shocking new information about the Force.

Prepare to journey to a strange world where the only thing for certain is that the *Star Wars* universe will never be the same again.

OVERLORDS



Anakin Skywalker, Obi-Wan Kenobi, and Ahsoka Tano are drawn to the mysterious planet of Mortis. As Anakin learns about his destiny from a family of powerful Force users—the Father, Son, and Daughter—he faces his most difficult challenge yet. Can he bring balance to the Force?



PAD



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Obi-Wan Kenobi and Padmé Amidala enjoy an informal chat about their love of all things

STAR WARS!

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Ashley Eckstein talks about her work as part of the Star Wars: The Clone Wars team as

AHSOKA SPEAKS



**PLUS: 16. THE FORCE EXPLORED // 24. SIMON PEGG
26. ANAKIN SKYWALKER // 50. BEN BURTT
& MATT WOOD // 59. BLASTER**



"ALTAR OF MORTIS"

Airdate February 11

As the Jedi attempt to escape Mortis, Ahsoka is taken captive as a lure to seduce Anakin Skywalker to join the dark side. As Anakin battles against dark forces, the Father attempts to stop a confrontation between his children, which threatens to unbalance the Force completely.

"GHOSTS OF MORTIS"

Airdate February 18

Anakin Skywalker must choose between the light and dark side of the Force as he gains a disturbing insight into his own future. Meanwhile, Obi-Wan and Ahsoka prepare for a decisive confrontation in their effort to unravel the mysteries of the planet. Can they ever escape Mortis?

LAUNCHPAD

MISTER EMPIRE STRIKES BACK!

IRVIN KERSHNER, WHO DIRECTED ARGUABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT *STAR WARS* FILM OF THEM ALL—*THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*—DIED IN NOVEMBER AT THE AGE OF 87, BUT HE LEFT BEHIND A NOTABLE BODY OF WORK BEYOND *STAR WARS*. WORDS: BRIAN J. ROBB

To family, friends, and fans he was simply known as "Kersh." During his filmmaking career Irvin Kershner achieved many things, but for *Star Wars* fans, he's the man who directed *The Empire Strikes Back*. In his lengthy directing career, Kershner worked with many cinematic icons, including James Bond and *Robocop* as well as Han, Luke, and Leia.

Born in 1923 in Philadelphia, his directing debut was the 1958 thriller *Stakeout on Dope Street*. Kershner came from a background of classical music—actually, he was something of a musical prodigy. He was also a wartime flight engineer. Studying art in New York in the post-war years, Kershner developed an interest in photography that led to him teaching the subject at the University of Southern California (USC). As part of the faculty, he was able to attend USC's filmmaking courses (later taught by Kershner and taken by *Star Wars* creator George Lucas). His first job, however, was as a still photographer working on U.S. State Department film projects in Iran. That led to work in documentary films, working with the U.S. Information Service across Iran, Greece, and Turkey.

His documentary work, especially on the 1950s current affairs TV show *Confidential File*, led to *Stakeout on Dope Street*, a "torn from the headlines" thriller about three teenagers who discover contraband that gangsters have "misplaced." Set up by Kershner, and boosted by a \$10,000 investment from B-movie king



Roger Corman, *Stakeout on Dope Street* was intended as a directorial calling card. Shot in a fake documentary style, complete with downbeat narration, the film was promoted as a warning to parents about the harsh world of the late-1950s in which their kids were growing up. It may be dated and inadvertently funny now, but for Kershner his debut feature became a stepping-stone.

The classic Hollywood studio system was in its last throes, but Kershner was able to secure a contract with Warner Bros. A couple of more pictures followed—*The Young Captives* (1959) and *Hoodlum Priest* (1961)—before episodic television sidelined Kershner's theatrical ambitions for a while.

It would be the mid-1960s before he was able to make movies again, but he found himself working with a number of stars for most of the next decade. Kershner directed

Sean Connery in *A Fine Madness* (1966), George C. Scott in *The Firm-Fam Man* (1967), Barbara Streisand in *Up in the Sandbox* (1972), and Richard Harris in *Return of a Man Called Horse* (1976).

His later work in the 1970s earned Kershner wider recognition, with TV movie *Raid on Entebbe* (1976) nominated for nine Emmys including Best Direction. However, it was the Faye Dunaway thriller *Eyes of Laura Mars* (1978) that would prove pivotal to Kershner's future.

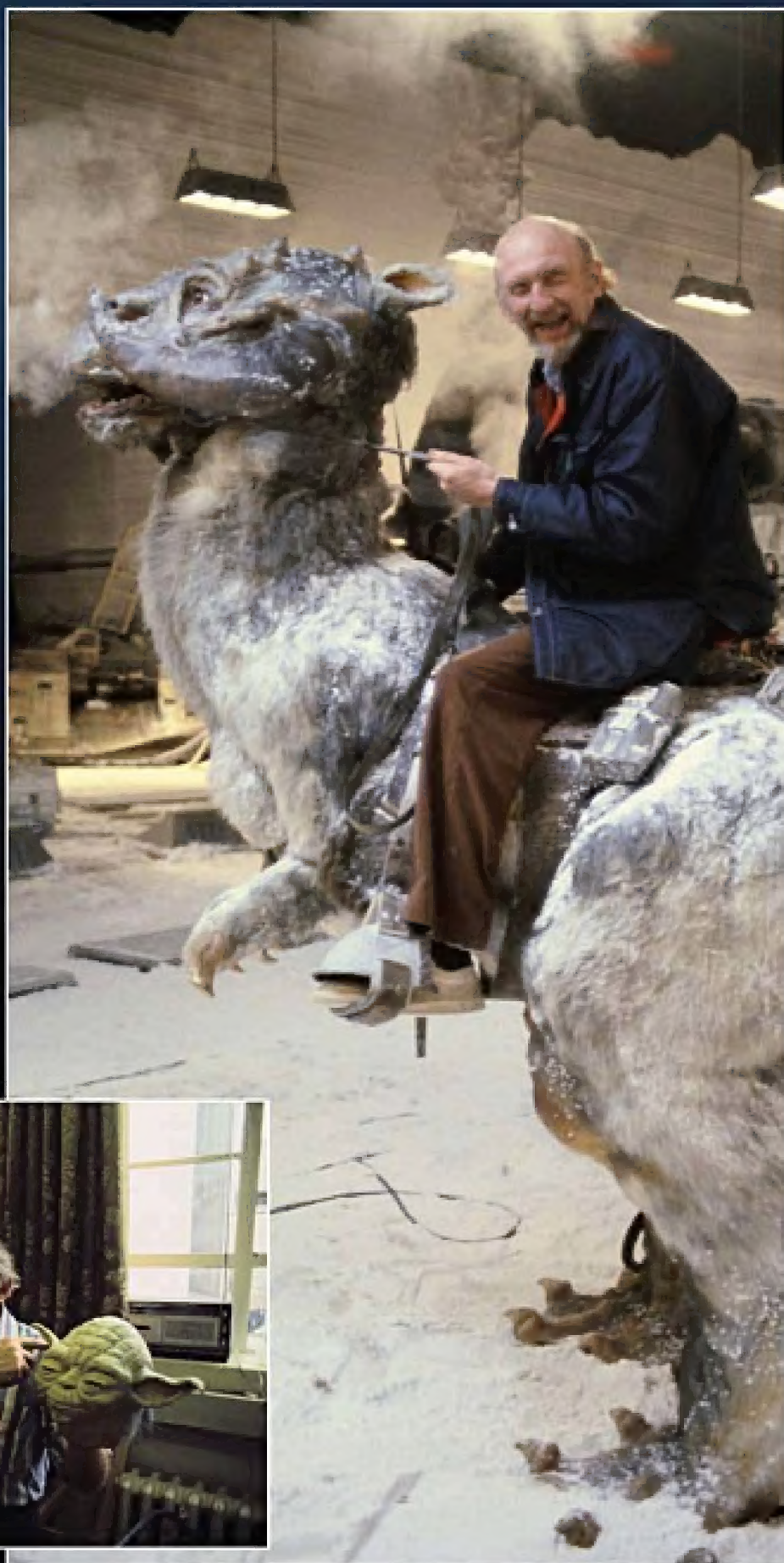
George Lucas attended classes at USC, including those given by Kersh. "I attended his lectures and he was actually on the festival panel that gave the prize to my *THX* short. I considered him a mentor," said Lucas upon Kershner's death. "Following *Star Wars*, I knew one thing for sure: I didn't want to direct the second

movie myself. I needed someone I could trust, someone I really admired and whose work had maturity and humor. That was Kersh all over."

Arguably, *The Empire Strikes Back* would be the most important *Star Wars* movie of them all. *A New Hope* could stand on its own, but the second film would show whether *Star Wars* was viable as a series and would lay the foundations for everything to follow.

Lucas selected Kershner after seeing his work on *Laura Mars*, knowing that the second *Star Wars* film was a much more character-based story. However, there was one man not convinced of his suitability for the job: Irvin Kershner himself.

"I turned it down at first," he admitted to *Star Wars Insider*. "When [George] asked





me to do it, I was surprised. It also kind of frightened me. *Star Wars* was one of the greatest successes we ever had in film, and I felt to follow it would only be to make a film not as good, because it would not have the freshness of the initial source. George said, 'Look, the second film of the *Star Wars* trilogy, if it isn't as good or better than *Star Wars*, it won't be a series. It'll die right there. It's got to stand up to the original and go beyond it, if possible.' George wanted me to make a better picture than *Star Wars*."

Kershner was only too aware of the first *Star Wars*, having been one of the first people to see footage from the film when it was still a work-in-progress. "I had seen a trailer George had made that he showed at a New Year's party at [Francis Ford] Coppola's house in San Francisco. We were all baffled, to tell you the truth. We did not believe that he was going to get away with this. We all had little conversations on the side—'What do we say to him? It's a cartoon, not a real science-fiction picture!' We didn't realize, of course, that it wasn't supposed to be a science-fiction picture. It was supposed to be a fairy tale, with mythic qualities, using the qualities of science-fiction."

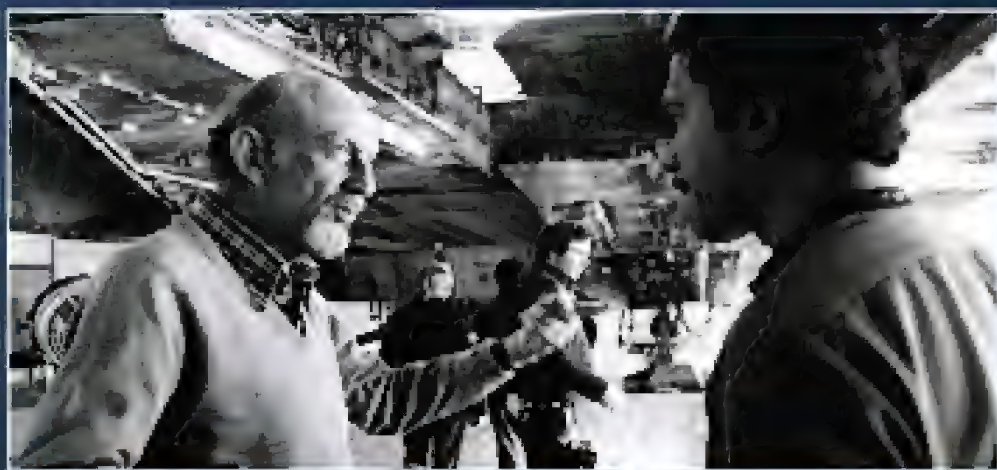
Not only was *The Empire Strikes Back* important, but it also had the most difficult location shots, especially in Norway for the



scenes set on Hoth. These were conditions that California-based filmmaker Kershner was simply not used to. "In Norway, the laundromat froze up," he told Scott Chernoff in *Star Wars Insider*. "We couldn't get the smoke to come out of the nose, and we couldn't get the movements right because the damn thing froze—the wires inside froze up. The first day of shooting was 26 below zero. It was brutal."

Whatever the tribulations of its creation, the film was a success and kick-started





the second half of Kershner's career. Now, blockbuster franchise movies were open to him, and he reunited with Sean Connery as James Bond in *Never Say Never Again* (1983) and tackled another second-in-a-sci-fi-trilogy movie, *RoboCop 2* (1990).

Little known is Kershner's sideline acting career, starting with a 1988 cameo for Martin Scorsese in *The Last Temptation of Christ*. He followed this by appearing in Steven Seagal's environmental thriller *On Deadly Ground* (1994) and 1995's *Angus*, a teen comedy. Billed as "Irv Kershner," he can also be seen in *Manhood* (2003) and *Berkeley* (2005), fittingly playing a professor.

"I like to fill up the frame with the characters' faces," he once explained of his approach to character-based movies. "There's nothing more interesting than the landscape of the human face." Although in his

Star Wars film the *Empire* won, Irvin Kershner—as shown in his films—was always a bit of a rebel.

"The world has lost a great director and one of the most genuine people I've had the pleasure of knowing," said Lucas. "Irvin Kershner was a true gentleman in every sense of the word. When I think of Kersh, I think of his warmth, his thoughtfulness, and his talent. I didn't want *Empire* to turn into just another sequel, another episode in a series of space adventures. I was trying to build something, and I knew Kersh was the guy to help me do it. He brought so much to the table. I am truly grateful to him. He was a friend as well as a colleague. He will be missed."

Summing up his filmmaking career, which spanned over 30 years, Irvin Kershner noted, without regrets: "I'm Mr. *Empire Strikes Back*. So that's it." ☐



STAR WARS

◻ FEBRUARY/MARCH 2011 ◻

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LAUNCHPAD

AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS INVENT WORKING TRACTOR BEAM

When your Jedi mind powers fail, a real working mini-tractor beam might come in handy. From the opening of *A New Hope*, tractor beams have been used for good and ill throughout the *Star Wars* saga. Students at the Australian National University have managed to move particles a meter-and-a-half using the power of light. The light heats the area around tiny glass particles, thus allowing control of the speed and direction of the movement. The experiment suggests that distances of up to about 33 feet (10 meters) could be covered. Expect novelty toys to first use this cutting-edge technology.

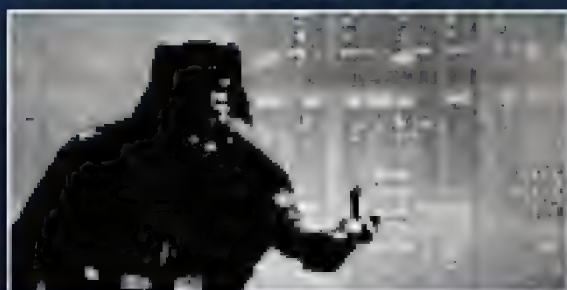


STAR WARS AS A SILENT MOVIE

It's a relic from a more civilized age: *Star Wars* recreated as a silent era movie, complete with title cards instead of dialogue and twinkling piano music incorporating John Williams' classic themes.

It works surprisingly well. Luke's lightsaber fight with Vader has a touch of slapstick to it, and then turns to pathos as Vader reveals their real relationship. Charlie Chaplin, eat your heart out! Scratches and jerky movements help sell the illusion that it came out in 1920, not 1980!

Expanded Universe: <http://tinyurl.com/23c3ztn>



"IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE... HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS" —HARRISON FORD ON *STAR WARS* IN 1977

He rarely talks about *Star Wars* these days, but back in 1977 Harrison Ford was keen to promote his new space adventure movie. Raw footage from an almost six-minute interview with Ford, recorded by interviewer Bobbie Wygant for a Dallas-Forth Worth news channel in the summer of 1977, has appeared on video website Vimeo.

Starting with his reaction to seeing the finished film, Ford says he was "delighted, proud, and grateful" to be involved. Of the finished movie he notes that he "had no idea of how skilful or spectacular the special effects would be. I was surprised by that. The opening shot is a stroke of genius."

Ford confirms he was never a Flash Gordon or Buck Rogers fan, but noted that George Lucas had made science fiction accessible to a wider audience. In the segment, he goes on to discuss the problems with the droid characters while making the movie and the changes the film has made to his career prospects with more scripts and opportunities coming his way. Now, whatever became of him?

Expanded Universe: <http://vimeo.com/13336321>



DANCING STORMTROOPERS SPOTTED IN U.K.!

Commuters in London couldn't quite believe their eyes at the start of September as cardboard cut-out stormtroopers from *Star Wars* took over the U.K. capital—dressed in morris dancing costumes!

One thousand cardboard stormtroopers dressed as morris dancers (traditional English country dancing, featuring costumes and belts) were distributed around town in an attempt to change the old-fashioned

image of morris dancing. Other cut-outs were modeled after English pop icon Morrissey.



It was all part of a drive by North Yorkshire graphic designer David Owen in response to a comment by Olympic chief Lord Coe that the London 2012 Olympics could be opened by "5,000 morris dancers" to represent Englishness.

Joined by 100 real dancers on London's South Bank, Owen said, "We thought we'd try to prove that morris dancers can actually look good."

ENCORE! BILL MURRAY SINGS THE STAR WARS SONG AGAIN!

At only 19 seconds it's mighty short, but this candid video of Bill Murray entertaining himself (and the cast and crew) between shots on the set of the movie *Get Low* shows he's still not forgotten his legendary performance from that *Saturday Night Live* skit from all those years ago!

Expanded Universe:

<http://tinyurl.com/2da2awq>

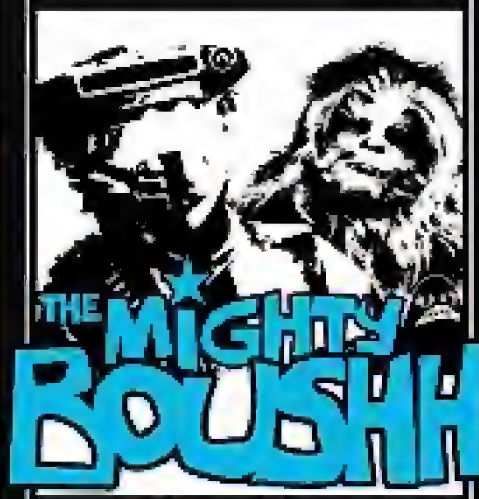
TWITTER BOUNTY HUNTER SITCOMS

When *Star Wars* fans let loose their creativity it's amazing what can happen. They used the Twitter hash tag #BountyHunterSitcoms this summer to come up with a host of sitcom ideas that TV executives should snap up immediately!

- ☛ Who's the Bossk?
- ☛ The Mighty Boushh
- ☛ Boba Meets World
- ☛ Seinfeld
- ☛ Mandalorian in the Middle
- ☛ The Golden Greedies
- ☛ The Fettisons
- ☛ How IG-88 Met Your Mother
- ☛ Dengar Howser M.D.

There's enough there to program a whole bounty hunter sitcom cable channel!

[Thanks to all Twitter and starwars.com posters]



Jumping forward a few years, there's a two-part YouTube video clip of Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford together on a 1980 *The Today Show* interview by Jane Pauley, promoting *The Empire Strikes Back*.

Harrison's still talking about how it's all about the characters, while Mark pushes the idea of a trilogy telling the whole story while explaining the growth of Luke across the three movies. He even drops a coded hint about his "sister!" All this while sitting in front of a giant still of a key spoiler moment in the film!

The stars also mention strange things called "prequels" that *Star Wars* creator

George Lucas apparently had in mind. Films set 20 years before *Star Wars*, and all about the adventures of a young Obi-Wan Kenobi. Now there's an idea! Expanded Universe:

<http://tinyurl.com/26zvqka>



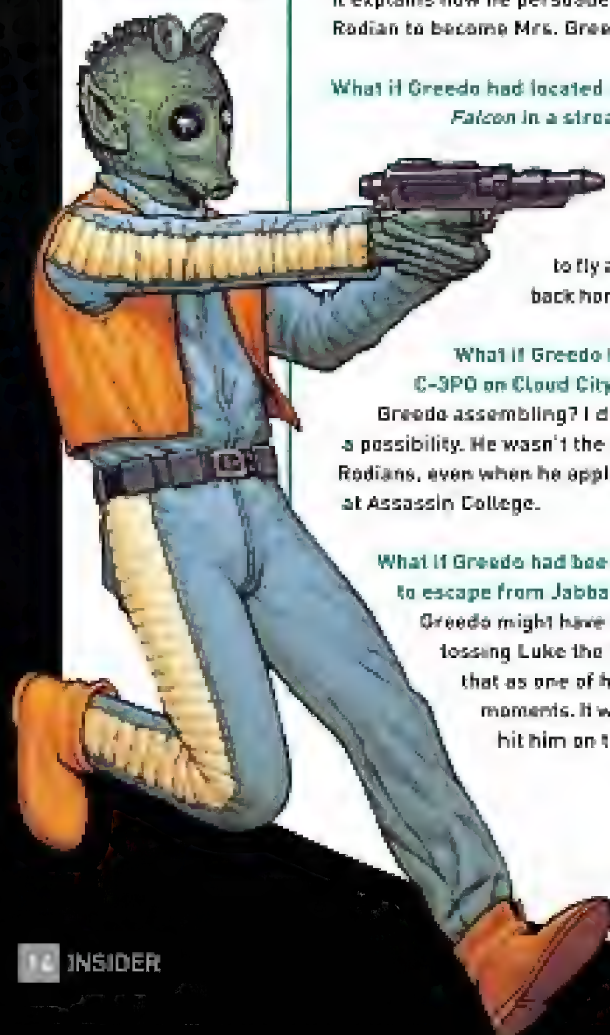
INTERROGATION DROID!



POOR GREEDO NEVER CAUGHT A BREAK. HE GOT IN A SCUFFLE WITH LITTLE ANAKIN IN *THE PHANTOM MENACE* (LATER CUT FROM THE FILM), BOTCHED A KIDNAPPING AND THEN GOT BEATEN UP BY BARON PAPANOIDA IN *THE CLONE WARS*, AND ENDED UP SLUMPED OVER A TABLE AT THE MOS EISLEY CANTINA! *STAR WARS INSIDER* ASKED **PAUL BLAKE**—WHO PLAYED THE HAPLESS RODIAN IN *A NEW HOPE*—HOW UNLUCKY GREEDO WOULD FOUL UP IF HE REPLACED MORE COMPETENT *STAR WARS* CHARACTERS. WORDS: CHRIS SPITALE



Greedo's slow to fire. Again.



What if Greedo faced Jango Fett in the Geonosis Arena?

Greedo was very adept at martial arts. He was taught by the Japanese masters at Assassin College. However, he missed the day they taught sword fighting, so he'd have been the one decapitated.

What if Greedo was stopped by sandcreepers at Mos Eisley?

His powers of mind control were immense! It explains how he persuaded a lovely female Rodian to become Mrs. Greedo!

What if Greedo had located the *Millennium Falcon* in a stream of garbage?

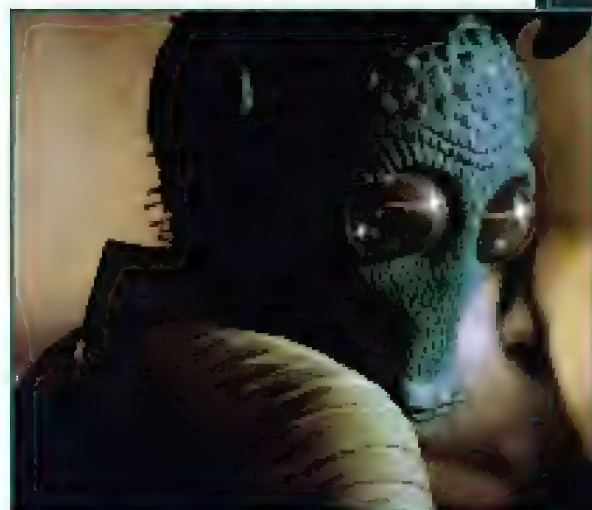
He'd have gotten a call from Mrs. Greedo, and would have had to fly all the way back home.

What if Greedo had to reassemble C-3PO on Cloud City?

Greedo assembling? I don't think it's even a possibility. He wasn't the brightest of Rodians, even when he applied for a place at Assassin College.

What if Greedo had been in on Luke's plan to escape from Jabba?

Greedo might have succeeded in losing Luke the lightsaber. I see that as one of his few heroic moments. It would have probably hit him on the head, though.



NAME: PAUL BLAKE

ALIAS: GREEDO

FIRST APPEARANCE

Star Wars: A New Hope

What if Greedo had taken the place of Lando during the assault on the second Death Star?

Well, Greedo didn't have a pilot's license, so that's a problem. He'd probably have been pulled over long before he got near enough, and been taken into custody.

What if Greedo had to save Luke from the Emperor on the second Death Star?

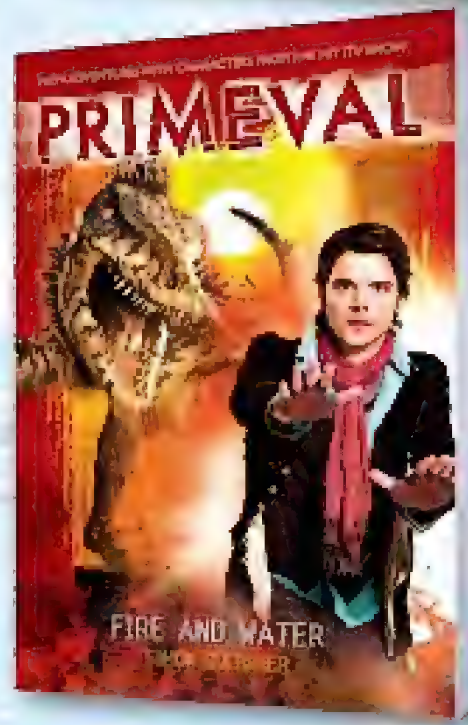
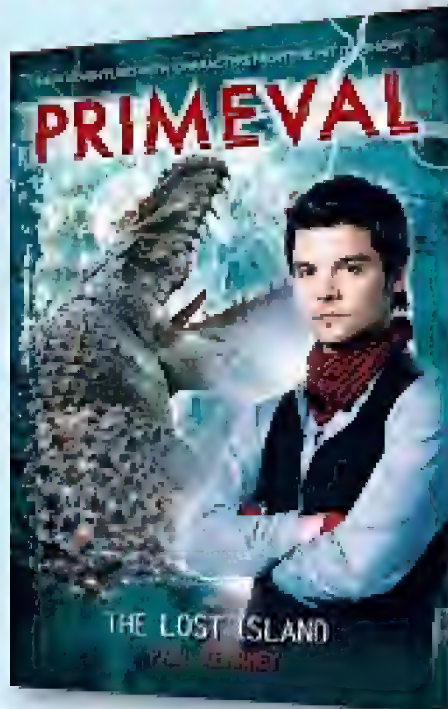
Greedo would have attempted to grab the Emperor, but the belt he was wearing would have fallen around his ankles, leading him to trip and fall over the precipice. Of course, in my alternate universe, Greedo would have shot first, killed Han Solo, run off with Princess Leia, defeated Darth Vader—and ruled the galaxy! 🤖

INTERROGATION DROID: PAUL BLAKE



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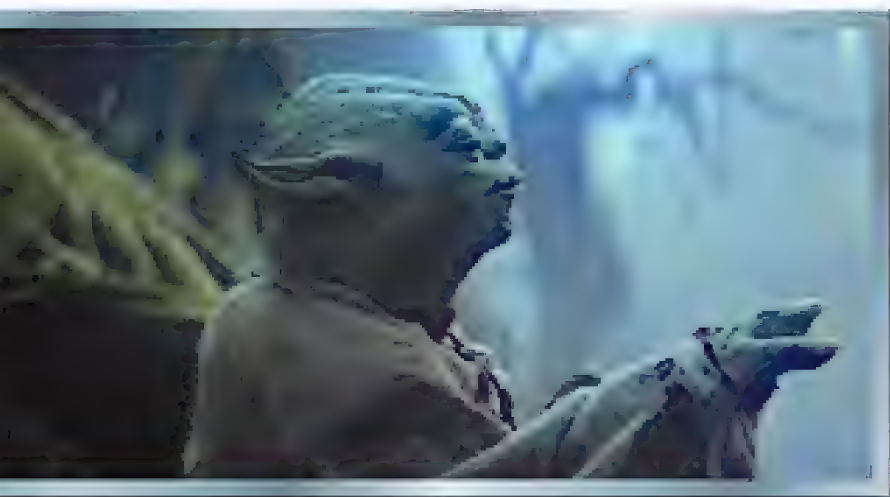
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SECRETS OF THE FORCE

"MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU" ISN'T JUST THE JEDI BENEDICTION—IT'S A PHRASE THAT WAS VOTED ONE OF THE AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE'S TOP 10 MOVIE QUOTES OF ALL TIME. BOTH AN ENERGY FIELD CREATED BY ALL LIVING THINGS AND AN INESCAPABLE POP CULTURE PHENOMENON, THE FORCE IS HERE TO STAY. NOW, AS *STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS* REVEALS NEW INFORMATION ABOUT THE FORCE IN THE MORTIS STORY ARC, WE EXPLORE THE POWER USED BY BOTH THE JEDI AND THE SITH! WORDS: DAN WALLACE



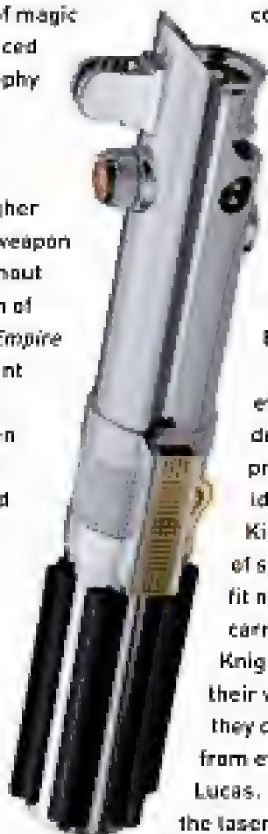
IN THE BEGINNING

The Force existed in George Lucas' early drafts of *Star Wars* as a source of magic and power. Influenced by Eastern philosophy and by Arthur Lipsett's documentary film *21-87* (which mentioned a "kind of force" to describe a higher power), Lucas created a weapon that could be wielded without muscles. The introduction of tiny, ancient Yoda in *The Empire Strikes Back* drove the point home to audiences that, like Luke, might have been expecting a more obvious "great warrior." Explained Lucas, "I wanted [Yoda] to be the exact opposite of what you might expect, since the Jedi are based on a philosophical idea rather than a physical idea."

In one draft the Force was a power available to the 12 children of Skywalker,

collectively known as the Jedi Bendu of the Ashla. Though many concepts changed in the journey from script to screen, the idea that the Force could be used for both good and evil remained. In those early efforts, the Force's light side was called the Ashla and its dark side, the Bogan.

Lightsabers also evolved during story development from sci-fi props into a symbol that identified Force users. The King Arthur associations of swordplay and chivalry fit nicely with a group that carried the name Jedi Knights. "Their weapons, their way of thinking, what they did had to be different from everybody else," said Lucas. "So I came up with the lasersword and a lot of different powers."



FORCE JUMP

In the movies: Luke leaps from the carbon freezing chamber before Vader can activate the controls.

In the Expanded Universe: Kyle Katarn, hero of the Jedi Knight games, uses Force jump to access out-of-the-way platforms.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

What are the qualifications to become a Jedi? The most basic prerequisite is to be strong in the Force, a quality that *The Chosen Menace* introduced in a cellular symphony with two rescripted will-thou-art-thine. Based on role, characters like Han Solo and Ben Organa presumably have no chance of passing the preliminary screening.

If you're strong that's an interest and name attachment to other people, you might not pass the screen test. Yoda initially dismissed Luke by professing that he was too old to join Jedi training, but even nine-year-old Anakin Skywalker met with similar objections. The logic behind the apparent capriciousness of Jedi selection is that a Jedi should serve the galaxy's interests fairly, without showing favoritism toward blood's siblings, parents, or friends.

Being a cyborg might also knock you out of consideration. Because the Force emanates from living things, metal and circuitry are blocks to achieving one's true potential. In a 2005 interview with *Variety* Film, Lucas stated, "Anakin Skywalker, as a human being, was going to be extremely powerful, but he ended up losing his arm and a leg and became partly a robot. So a lot of his ability to use the Force, a lot of his powers, are curbed at this point, because, well, living force, there's just this much of him left."

If you do manage to pass the entrance exams, congratulations! Now prepare yourself for a lifetime of learning. Students study the Force in the Jedi Temple until adolescence, then become the Padawan of an older master for another decade or so. (Obi-Wan was 25 when he graduated to the rank of Jedi Knight.)



FORCE POWERS

In a comic book universe the Jedi would be superheroes. Their abilities to run at super speed, read minds, and move objects without touching them are tangible proof of the Force's existence.



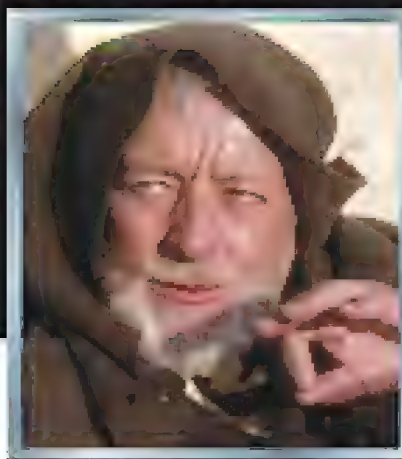
TELEKINESIS

In the movies: Luke calls his lightsaber to his hand in the wampa's cave. Darth Sidious tosses seating pods at Yoda inside the Senate chamber. In the Expanded Universe: Starkiller, Darth Vader's apprentice, steers a Star Destroyer into a spectacular crash landing in *The Force Unleashed*.

JEDI MIND TRICK

In the movies: Obi-Wan convinces a squad of stormtroopers "these aren't the droids you're looking for." However, Qui-Gon flops when he tries the trick on Watto—who, as a Toydarian, is naturally immune.

In the Expanded Universe: In the *Knights of the Old Republic* comics, mistit Jedi Zayne Carrick fails to mind-trick the Snivvian con artist Gryph, because Gryph is far too savvy to fall for a tactic intended for the weak-minded.





TELEPATHY

In the movies: Luke sends a thought message to Leia as he hangs from a Cloud City weather vane.

In the Expanded Universe: Mara Jade mentally warns Leia of Imperial assassins in the novel *The Last Command*, then conveys specific instructions on how to take them down.



PRECOGNITION

In the movies: Luke senses the future by glimpsing his friends in pain on Cloud City. Anakin foresees Padmé's suffering and vows to stop it.

In the Expanded Universe: In the *New Jedi Order* novels, Jacen Solo has a vision of the galaxy in which his missteps leads to imbalance and potential victory by the Yuuzhan Vong invaders.



FORCE LIGHTNING

In the movies: The Emperor tortures Luke with bolts of electricity fired from his fingertips. Count Dooku tries the same tactic against Yoda on Geonosis.

In the Expanded Universe: Although Force lightning is considered a dark side power, Jedi Master Plo Koon wields it in the PlayStation game *Jedi Power Battles*.



THE SITH

Every student has a master, and every master is followed by a knight. The Sith are the opposite of the Jedi. They are not interested in peace and harmony, but are focused only on the dark side of the Force. As Yoda says in *The Empire Strikes Back*, the dark side is quicker, easier, and more powerful—it's the equivalent of cheating at a test instead of getting there through diligent studying.

The Sith have many of the same abilities as the Jedi, but their powers, including Force lightning and telekinetic manipulation, tend to be more menacing. The Sith also follow the Rule of Two, which stipulates that only one master and one apprentice may exist at any time. This helps keep



"On his long and illustrious, but green and somewhat young, journey of Jedi philosophy, it's only a matter of time before the student makes a move to assassinate the teacher."

In the Expanded Universe, the Sith have played a part twice in the *Knights of the Old Republic* games, *The Old Republic MMO*, the *Darth Bane* novels, and the *Star Wars Encyclopedia*. The Sith often carry the title "Darth," as the monies we've had Vader, Maul, Sidious, Tyranus, and Hologram. The EU has given rise to such characters as Darth Malak, Darth Kriol, Darth Talon, Darth Desolous, and Darth Desolous—also known as Jacen Solo, the son of Han Solo and Leia Organa.



MIDI-CHLORIANS: WHAT'S THE DEAL?

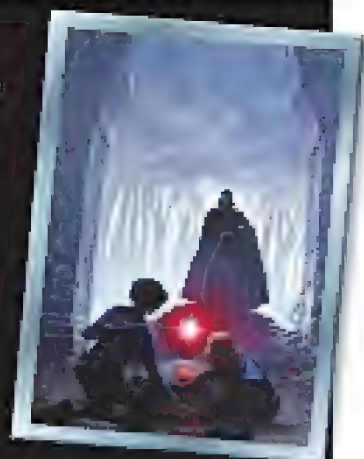
In the *Star Wars* universe, midi-chlorians are microscopic life forms that reside inside living cells. As Qui-Gon says, "Without the midi-chlorians life could not exist, and we would have no knowledge of the Force. They continually speak to you, telling you the will of the Force." That quote, and the fact that Anakin Skywalker was given a midi-chlorian count of over 20,000, upset some fans who believed that the "mystical energy field" theory of the Force had been overturned in favor of a literal, scientific solution.

The answer, however, is right there in the dialogue: The midi-chlorians aren't the Force, but merely the broadcasters. The idea ties into the theme of symbiosis that runs throughout *The Phantom Menace* (the Gungans and the Naboo, in another example, are said to form a "symbiotic circle"). The Force itself remains an otherworldly energy, and explicitly one with a consciousness or will. In the Expanded Universe: Because they aren't strictly necessary to understanding the Force's effects, the midi-chlorians have gone ignored by most creators of novels and games. In the humorous comic "Sippy the Jedi Droid" from *Star Wars Tales*, the droid RS-D4 becomes a Force-user thanks to a high concentration of "midi-chloroxians" in his lubricant fluid.

FORCE ARTIFACTS

It seems appropriate that the Force, a magical presence, could be concentrated within a wearable amulet. In fact, in the early scripts of *Star Wars: A New Hope* the Kiber crystal was an object capable of magnifying the Force. The script centered around recovering the crystal, and it acted as the MacGuffin to move the plot forward.

In the Expanded Universe: Using a different spelling, the Kaiburr crystal served as the centerpiece of Alan Dean Foster's 1978 novel *Splinter of the Mind's Eye*. It gave Luke the ability to defeat Vader in a one-on-one duel. (The name has been recycled twice since then: Jango Fett's poison dart was originally known as a Kaminoan Kyberdart, and the Holocron that contains data on potential Jedi candidates in *The Clone Wars* is called the Kyber crystal.) Other Force-strong artifacts in the EU include the relics of the Rakata from the *Knights of the Old Republic* game, and the magic ring worn by the witch Charal in the TV movie *Ewoks: The Battle for Endor*.





LUMINOUS BEINGS ARE WE

If the Force is created by life, then death should extinguish it. But the Jedi have even conquered this enemy. In *A New Hope*, only Obi-Wan's robes stay behind after Darth Vader cuts down his former master with his lightsaber. The disappearing act is seen once more when Yoda fades away on his deathbed.

Interestingly, Yoda freely admits that he can't stop himself from dying. "Strong am I with the Force," he says, "but not that strong." Instead, merging with the Force seems to be a way for a Jedi to die on his or her own terms, gaining additional powers in the process. Obi-Wan, Yoda, Anakin, and Qui-Gon all become Force spirits in the movies to reveal important information (such as Yoda's location in the Dagobah system) and to give urgent warnings

(Qui-Gon's "Anakin, no!" just before Anakin kills the Tusken Raiders).

What is death to a Jedi, exactly? In the rough draft of *Return of the Jedi*, Yoda tells Luke that he will soon join Obi-Wan in the "Netherworld," which will enable him to assist in the fight against the Emperor.

"Having Ben come back is almost like Zen," said *Empire Strikes Back* director Irvin Kershner, regarding Obi-Wan's shimmering specter. "A Buddhist notion is that you don't die, that you come back and have to suffer again until you do enough good and decide you don't want to come back."

In *Revenge of the Sith* we learn that this isn't a standard Jedi feat. It is something that Qui-Gon Jinn picked up from a Shaman of the Whills, and it can only be accomplished through compassion, not greed. Of course, Qui-Gon didn't disappear upon death—he had a Jedi funeral on Naboo—but was able to retain his consciousness anyway. In the Expanded Universe: Prior to the prequels, it was common for fans to assume that all Jedi became Force spirits upon death. Many sources, including *Tales of the Jedi*, used this to mark a Force-user's passing, though post-*Revenge of the Sith* it has become much less frequent. The technique has since been turned into something that has been lost and rediscovered throughout the ages. In the *Legacy* comics set more than 130 years after the movies, Luke Skywalker appears as a Force spirit to his descendant, Cade.

THE CHOSEN ONE



"You refer to the prophecy of the one who will bring balance to the Force. You believe it is to be this boy?"

Mica Winko provides the clearest movie explanation of the Prophecy of the Chosen One, noting that the Jedi Order exists primarily for fortune-telling. Qui-Gon

is convinced that Anakin Skywalker is the subject of the prophecy, in part because his master Shmi admitted that Anakin had no father. That the mid-chlorianic seed to create life seems supernatural, and *Revenge of the Sith* adds the wrinkle that Darth Plagueis may have been the mastermind behind the whole thing.

Regardless of how it happened, the Chosen One has a clear checklist that Anakin fulfills in *Return of the Jedi*: He destroys the Sith in the form of Emperor Palpatine, and he brings balance to the Force by clearing the way for Luke to restore the Jedi Order.

After years of vague hints about the Prophecy of the Chosen One, *The Clone Wars* drops a bombshell in Season Three: On the remote world of Mortis, Anakin Skywalker meets strange beings and loses his destiny. Is he the Chosen One, and what choice must he choose to determine the fate of the galaxy? 🌌



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MY STAR WARS

ACTOR, WRITER, AND *STAR WARS* FAN SIMON PEGG FIRST CAME TO PROMINENCE IN THE BRITISH HIT SHOW *SPACED*. HE WENT ON TO PLAY A RELUCTANT ZOMBIE KILLER IN *SHAUN OF THE DEAD* AND SCOTTY IN THE *STAR TREK* REBOOT. HE HAS RECENTLY WRITTEN HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY *NERO DO WELL*.
WORDS: BONNIE BURTON

When was the last time you saw a *Star Wars* movie and what were the circumstances? Oddly enough, I watched *A New Hope* only a few weeks ago. I saw it on the shelf and had an urge to watch it. Like when you bump into an old friend and suddenly realize just how much you have missed them. It was like pulling on a familiar warm coat and made me feel very nostalgic and happy.



Which *Star Wars* character is your favorite and why?

That would have to be a split decision. I always loved Chewbacca, because I always wanted a dog as a kid (I have one now). There's something wonderful about having the loyalty of an animal companion. I know Chewie is a Wookiee and not an animal but his resemblance to that most faithful of furry companions is undeniable. It's as though your puppy grew up to be a crack shot with a bowcaster and an ace mechanic, even if he sometimes forgets what goes where. Never has any creature possessed such strength and fierce devotion while managing to remain somehow cute.

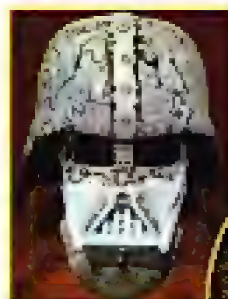
The other would have to be Princess Leia, simply because she was my first love. I can still feel the ache I experienced as a child when seeing her picture or glimpsing behind-the-scenes footage of Carrie Fisher on set. I guess it was Carrie I was in love with really, but at the age of seven, the two were indivisible.





What is your most prized *Star Wars* item?

I bought one of The Vader Project customized helmets at auction at *Star Wars Celebration Europe*. The helmet was customized by graffiti artists Dan & Dan and when I bought it, was yet to be finished. When they learned I had purchased it, they customized the design just for me. It's sky blue with an intricate pattern of characters and designs swirling around the faceplate and lower part of the helmet. On the left temple you can clearly see me and Nick Frost [Simon's friend and regular co-star] wearing bunny costumes. It's a prized possession.



What is it about the original *Star Wars* films that make you want to watch them over and over again?

They had such an effect on me as a child. I owe them a debt of gratitude for expanding my imagination and cultivating my love for cinema, literature, and even music. They have huge emotional significance for me. I know the *Star Wars* galaxy is fraught with danger, but for me, it is a safe place to go if ever I feel out of sorts. It's a place I can escape to and feel happy.

Your new movie *Paul* is about traveling around the U.S. with an alien. Who would you rather go on a road trip with: R2-D2 or Chewbacca?

Chewie! They'd both be good at keeping the vehicle going because they both have technical skills, but if we wanted to stop off and go for a hike, R2-D2 would be a bit of a drag, unless he used the little jet pack that none of us knew he had until 2002. Also I'd feel safer with Chewie going through some of the more remote areas. I've been into a few bars in Middle America; they can be like the Mos Eisley cantina. The music's good but you have to watch your step, particularly if you're from out of town.



Which *Star Wars* character is completely underrated and why?

Nien Nunb never gets the props he deserves. That flappy-faced Sullustan co-piloted the *Falcon* through the center of the second Death Star and helped take out its reactor core. Not only that, he was on his game 100 percent throughout that battle. He had his big black eyes on the *Star Destroyers* as well as the fighters and maintained a buffer of practical strategic defensive and offensive maneuvering, a perfect counter-point to Lando's recklessness. They were a formidable team and thanks to Nunb's careful pragmatic co-piloting, he helped save the Rebellion, and the entire galaxy.



EXPANDED

Be sure to catch Simon Pegg in the new movie *Paul*, as well as on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/simonpegg>

UNIVERSE





MATT LANTER & THE RIGORS OF MORTIS!

AN EXCITING AND REVOLUTIONARY NEW VIEW OF THE FORCE? JOURNEY WITH *STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS*' MATT LANTER (VOICE OF ANAKIN SKYWALKER) TO THE MYSTERIOUS PLANET MORTIS! WORDS: JONATHAN WILKINS

S *Star Wars Insider*: Can you recall your reaction when you first read the scripts for the Mortis episodes?

Matt Lanter: I was actually shocked when I first read the episodes. There are some revelations that we learn about the Force and the balance of the Force. I think it's going to blow audiences away. How does Anakin play into that? Getting [the scripts] for those three episodes was a really cool experience for me as a *Star Wars* fan.

Playing Anakin, I get to take him on this emotional journey. There's a

lot for him to do, because there's an emotional rollercoaster that he goes on. This has probably been the most challenging arc as a voice actor yet in *The Clone Wars* for me. I hear they came out great, and it's going to be a game changer for fans when they see them. It's a totally new reveal.

Anything that ties *The Clone Wars* into the movies is always going to be cool.

Yes. They do a great job tying it in with the characters and the stories. When you see film characters come in, it really solidifies that it is an extension of the films;

it's not something different, it's an extension of the saga that we know and love.

It's really unlike anything that the show or even *Star Wars* in general has attempted so far. Did you approach these scripts in a different way?

The cool thing about *The Clone Wars* is we're able to have different tones to individual shows. Sometimes we've got a very light and fun tone, like some of the shows about Ahsoka. There was one about Ahsoka and Threepio finding fruit to go on a cake! They're entertaining, but we also have episodes and arcs that



tragic when we've got a character who is a hero, a likeable, loveable hero. Of course, he has these flaws. We see them come out every now and then. By the end of it these flaws take him over. It's intense.

What appeals to you most about the character?

Anakin is probably one of the most complex characters in science fiction history. Right now he's the fun-loving charming hero that every boy looks up to. It's a lot of fun to play those dark moments, because that makes the character very

human. To play both aspects is a dream job—being part of *Star Wars* and voicing Anakin. The saga is all about Anakin and Darth Vader!

are very dark, that give a lot of *Star Wars* secrets away. This is definitely one of those arcs, very dark and very intense. One of the fun things about *The Clone Wars* is that we get to explore all these emotions, and as long as they're *Star Wars*, it works. As a fan, this has got to be one of my favorite arcs.

These are the biggest episodes yet for Anakin—what kind of direction did supervising director Dave Filoni offer?

Dave is always extremely helpful and integral in making these episodes. In dealing with the Force and higher powers, Dave was right there directing Sam Witwer [the Son] and me into the right emotional tone. He's excellent at that. He knows exactly where it needs to be and he knows what it's going to look like and the impact it's going to have on the fans. Without his direction, it wouldn't be nearly what it is.

These are particularly dark episodes—how far down the dark path do you think Anakin can go on the show? Does he have to remain a hero?

I think to a certain extent he has to remain a hero. We know how he appears at the beginning of *Revenge of the Sith*, so obviously he can't go past that. I feel like in *Revenge of the Sith* he's got these thoughts circulating in his head already. He's already thinking about how

Obi-Wan's holding him back, but for the most part he's still trying to be a good Jedi. There's a stage we can't really go past. It's fun for me, as an actor, to see these dark flashes in Anakin. It's a nice foreshadowing tool we can use. Anakin certainly does have these tendencies, and you can see why he goes to the extreme place he does in *Revenge of the Sith*. I think it makes the story much more



Anakin and Ahsoka in the human form of Matt Lanter and Ashley Eckstein.



Do you think these episodes are as dark as the show can get? It was pretty dark in the script, but I don't know how it came out, how it looks. *Revenge of the Sith* is very, very dark. I don't think there's any reason why we can't do the same, why we can't go there. There's endless potential.

When you signed up did you have any idea you'd be doing these kind of episodes? Did you expect anything like the Mortis episodes? I had no idea the show was going to be this huge, worldwide. When I auditioned, we didn't know anything. It was very secretive. I didn't even know exactly what I was reading for!

We've got such a talented writing team and animation team, and George obviously tells some fantastic stories, so nothing surprises me. Something as big as this reveal, though, did shock me when I read the script. It really changes your perception of something as big as the Force, how you see it through all six films. That's when I think *The Clone Wars* is at its best, when it reveals something, or changes something,



"*THE CLONE WARS* IS AT ITS BEST WHEN IT REVEALS SOMETHING OR CHANGES SOMETHING, OR ADDS TO HOW WE SEE THE FILMS."

or really adds to how we see the films. That's when we know we're doing a good job, when we fit right in and we're changing the way things are thought about. That's what the prequels did for the original trilogy—they changed the way we saw things in the original trilogy completely. That's what *The Clone Wars* is doing. It's pretty incredible.

Do you agree with the decisions Anakin makes?

I'm very close to the character. Up until the end, when his emotions get the best of him, Anakin thinks

he's on the right path. He thinks the Senate has been corrupted. He thinks the Jedi are corrupt. He believes he's doing the right thing. Even at that point he believes that. At this point, he is brash and he does go after the enemy rather than take care of the wounded. I can empathize with Anakin, yes. He makes some brash decisions, but you can't always go by the book. Sometimes you've just got to get it done.

You were at Celebration V last year. Was that your first big convention?
Yes, my first big convention. I did



Above: Anakin faces his destiny as the Jedi struggle to escape Mortis!

Star Wars Fan Days in Plano, Texas and I have done San Diego Comic-Con, but that was a couple of years back. We were not on the air then. *The Clone Wars* didn't have as huge a presence at that Comic-Con as it probably would now. So Celebration was definitely the biggest.

What did you make of it?

I loved it. I'm a fan of the saga, just like everyone else. Everyone asked me about being a *Star Wars* geek and I'm proud of it, because it's so much fun. Going to a convention like that—where there's 30,000 people and everyone's just there to have a good time—that's what everyone enjoys. Everyone's in a great mood, celebrating *Star Wars*. I think it's a blast. Of course, I get the rare opportunity of being on the other side. I get to make *Star Wars* and then have that fan reaction and feedback. Everyone is really appreciative that you're making *Star Wars*. It's a great feeling.

Would you say that's the coolest thing about being in *Star Wars*? Definitely. The universe and the characters that George invents are awesome. They're fun to be a part of and fun to play, but what really makes *Star Wars* is the fan base and the fan community. When we were down at Celebration, it felt like a huge family. Everyone was laughing and having a good time, seeing people they haven't seen in a year or two. It's a really cool way

of connecting us to this worldwide *Star Wars* community that is so passionate.

People sometimes make fun of *Star Wars* fans as being so crazy-passionate and complaining about the stories, but that's one of the fun parts. It's a challenge to make *Star Wars* and to make it a live up to the films. It's great when people love it and it's *Star Wars* history.

Star Wars now spans multiple generations, with *The Clone Wars* bringing families together. I get fan mail talking about fathers watching *The Clone Wars* with their sons. It's a special time for their family. It's just a great thing to be a part of.

What do you think of Anakin's new look on the show?

I've seen the pictures and I've seen the video on starwars.com, but I haven't seen the character in action yet. These characters progress and change, and a change of clothing is kind of nice—a breath

of fresh air. Of course, it looks a little bit more like *Revenge of the Sith*, which helps the continuity. As far as Anakin specifically, he's a little bigger, he's a little wider. I think his chest is a little bigger, so he's a bit more intimidating. As he grows up I think his hair gets a little bit longer. It helps solidify that we're filling in a gap between the two films. The starting point was one film and our ending point is another film. It really makes it feel like you're watching the *Star Wars* saga. I'm excited to see it; I hope everyone else is too. And how cool is Ahsoka with her dual weapons?

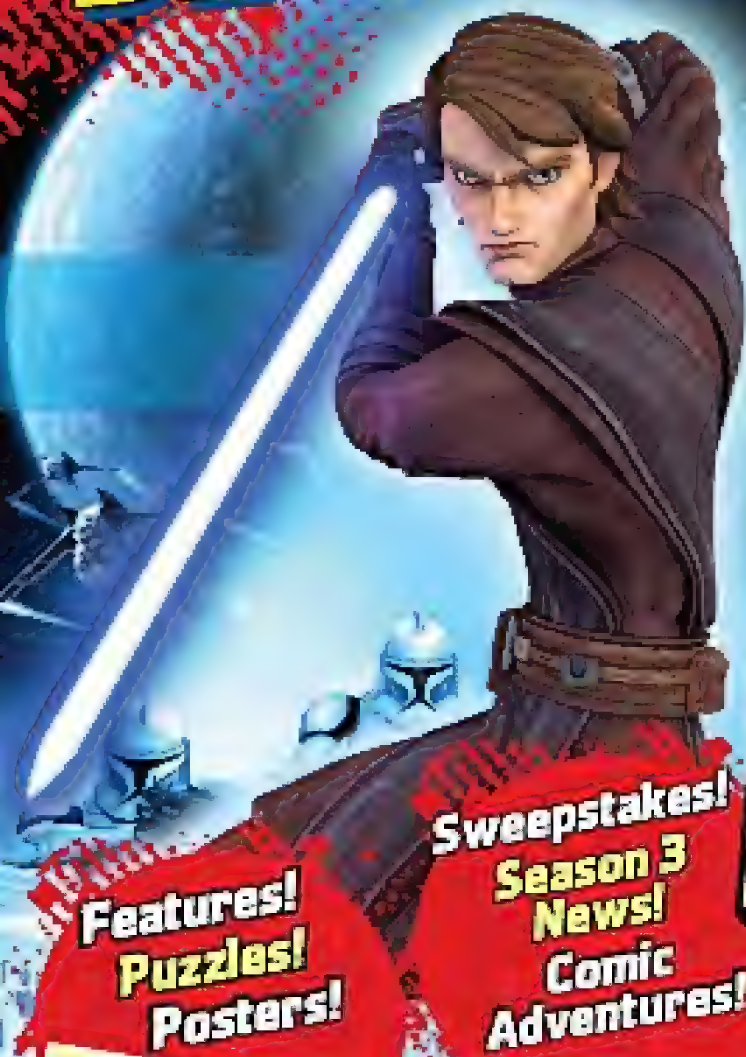
Maybe next season you'll get another weapon?

Maybe one of those double-bladed lightsabers? That would be a big Season Four reveal! He gets a double-sided blade, and then loses it in a fight, so we don't see it in *Revenge of the Sith*! I'll have to bring that up to Dave! ☺



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STAR WARS RETRO

COLLECTING LUKE!

DARTH VADER SPENT A LOT OF TIME SEARCHING FOR LUKE SKYWALKER, BUT COLLECTORS HAVE SPENT EVEN MORE TIME LOOKING FOR MERCHANDISE DEPICTING THEIR HERO. WORDS AND PICTURES: GUS LOPEZ

There have been over 2,400 unique Luke Skywalker items produced since 1977, giving Luke fans many options to collect their favorite character.

1] Luke was one of the first Kenner action figures offered for pre-order in the Early Bird Certificate kit in 1977. This was followed up in early 1978

with the release of the Luke Skywalker action figure on a 12-back card. The card back featured artwork of Luke's landspeeder (also a Kenner toy) and a detailed close-up of Luke's arm to explain the retracting lightsaber feature.

2] Twenty years later, Icons produced the first ever Luke Skywalker lightsaber replica prop. Made out of a custom machined metal hilt resembling the vintage Graflex camera flash tubes used for Luke's lightsaber prop in the first two films, Icons launched its replica prop line with this popular item. Fans could now own a high quality version of Luke's weapon without needing to hunt down vintage camera equipment.

3] Omni Cosmetics sold Luke Skywalker snowspeeder pilot soap in 1983. It came packaged in a simple window box. The soap was orange to match the pilot uniform colors—just what Luke needed after a smelly night inside the guts of a laundrum!



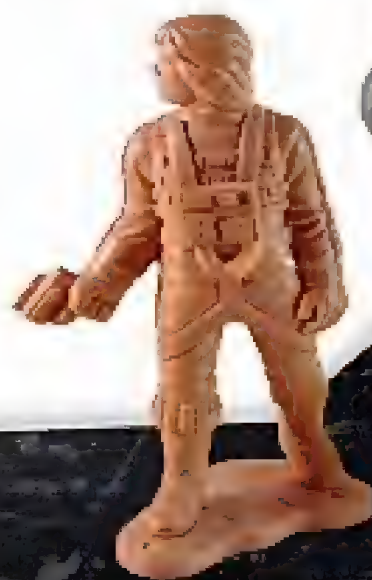


4] Luke was featured in convention exclusives including Luke-themed badges at *Star Wars Celebration IV*, *V*, *Europe*, and *Japan*. Luke Skywalker pewter medallions were among the giveaways at the *Celebration IV* and *Europe* collecting panels. These two medallions were based on an image of the vintage Luke Skywalker action figure.

5] Luke was included in the lineup of yogurt cups for the *Return of the Jedi* promotion by Dairy Time in the United Kingdom. Different flavors of yogurt were assigned to each character, and Luke in his X-wing outfit appeared on the low fat raspberry cups. For the *Star Wars* Special Edition films, Nature's Source created a Luke Skywalker themed

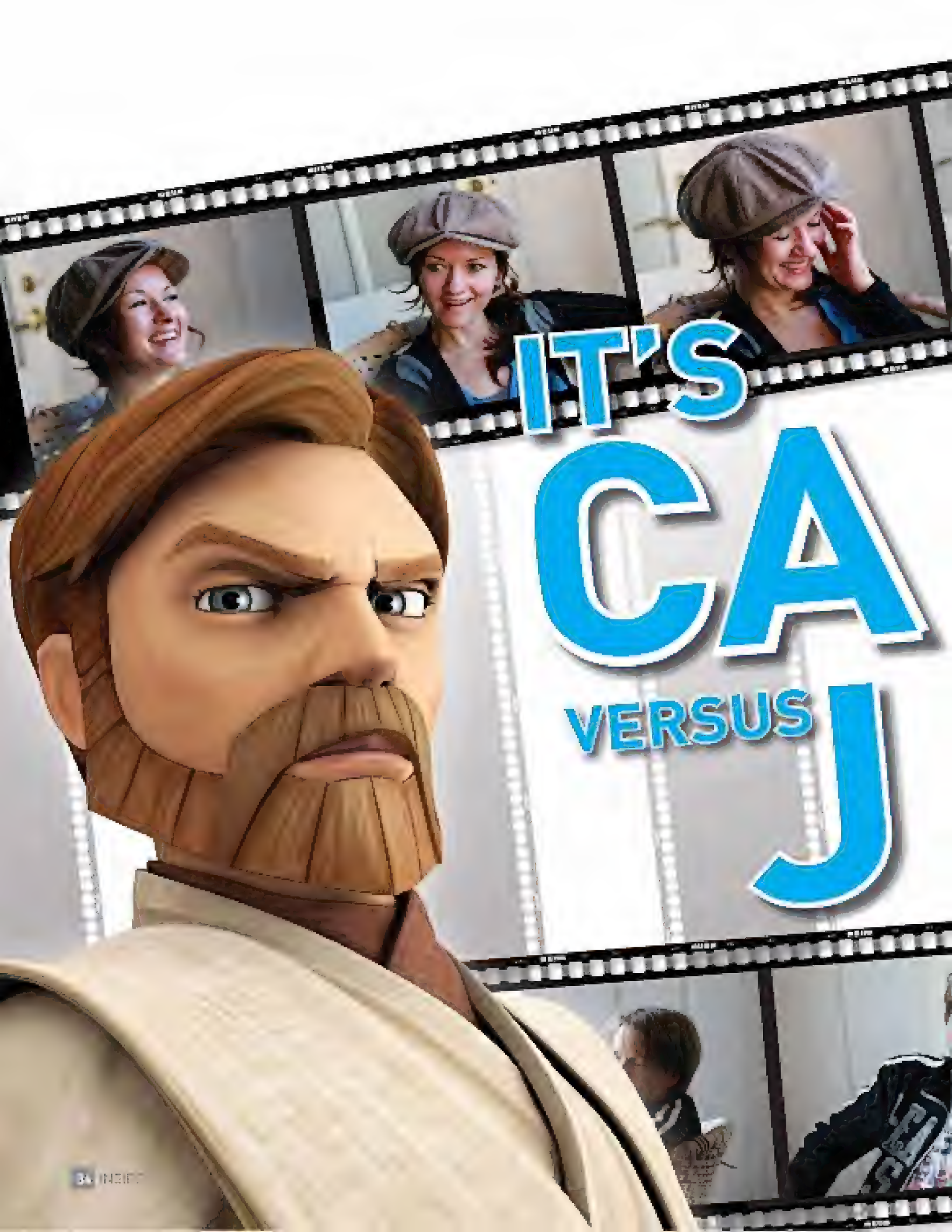
"Mallow Blitz" cereal box for its tie-in with the theatrical release.

6] It's hard to imagine that any Luke Skywalker toys considered by Kenner did not make it to market, but several have been documented. For the Micro Collection line, Kenner planned to expand it playsets with a new Dagobah World. This set was to feature a figure of Luke in his X-wing outfit. Early in the design stages for the *Return of the Jedi* line, Kenner considered a version of the Luke Jedi Knight figure with sculpted flowing robes, but this was later changed to a simpler outfit



with a detachable cloth cape. Years after the vintage line waned, Kenner explored revitalizing *Star Wars* toys with two-inch scale figures including Luke in his pilot uniform, which was mocked up to pitch the concept.

7] The Star Jars cookie jar line from the 1990s was originally planned to cover nearly two dozen different *Star Wars* characters including Luke. Unfortunately this ill-fated line ceased production after the first six jars, never bringing the Skywalker jar to market. Some collectors, however, have managed to get the Luke cookie jar in prototype form. 🍪



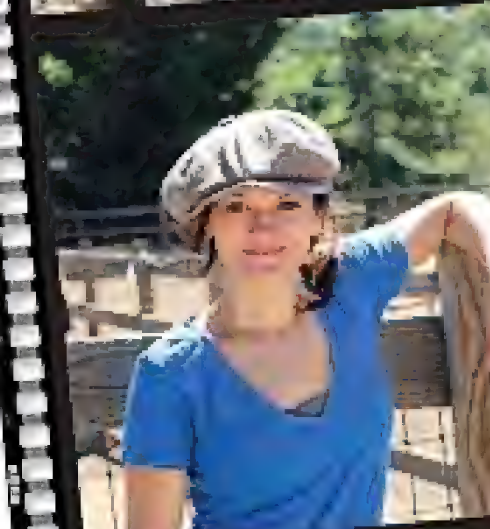
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T A T!

PADMÉ AMIDALA'S VOICE IN *THE CLONE WARS*, CATHERINE TABER (CAT!), NEGOTIATES AGGRESSIVELY WITH VOICE OF OBI-WAN KENOBI, JAMES ARNOLD TAYLOR (JAT!) IN OUR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW!





C

AT: If you were a Jedi Knight, what color lightsaber would you wield?
JAT: Nobody's ever asked me that.

Everybody always wants to know about Obi-Wan. Blue is pretty good. I like blue; my car is blue, my eyes are blue. I look good in blue. Maybe I would change it just a shade darker, Gunmetal blue.

JAT: If you could be anyone in the *Star Wars* universe at all, who would you be?

CAT: I'd say Padmé is very much like me in a lot of ways. People think she's wimpy and a pacifist—no she's not! She has decorum, but when the time comes for it, she will fight. I played her daughter, Leia [in *Star Wars: The Force Unleashed*], who would be another great choice. I want to play Jaina Solo as well! Padmé has the greatest clothes, though—let's just get that out there!

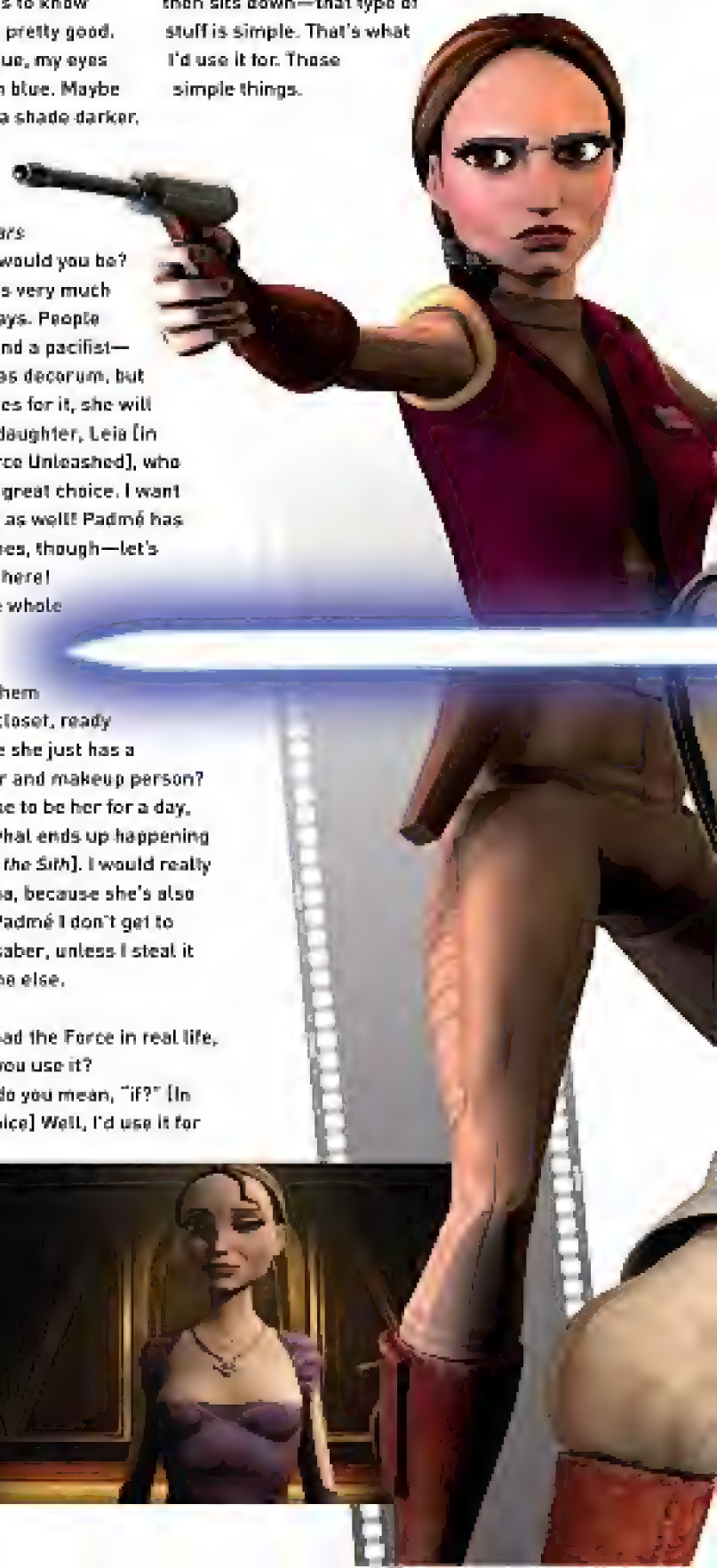
JAT: It'd take the whole day to get that headdress on!

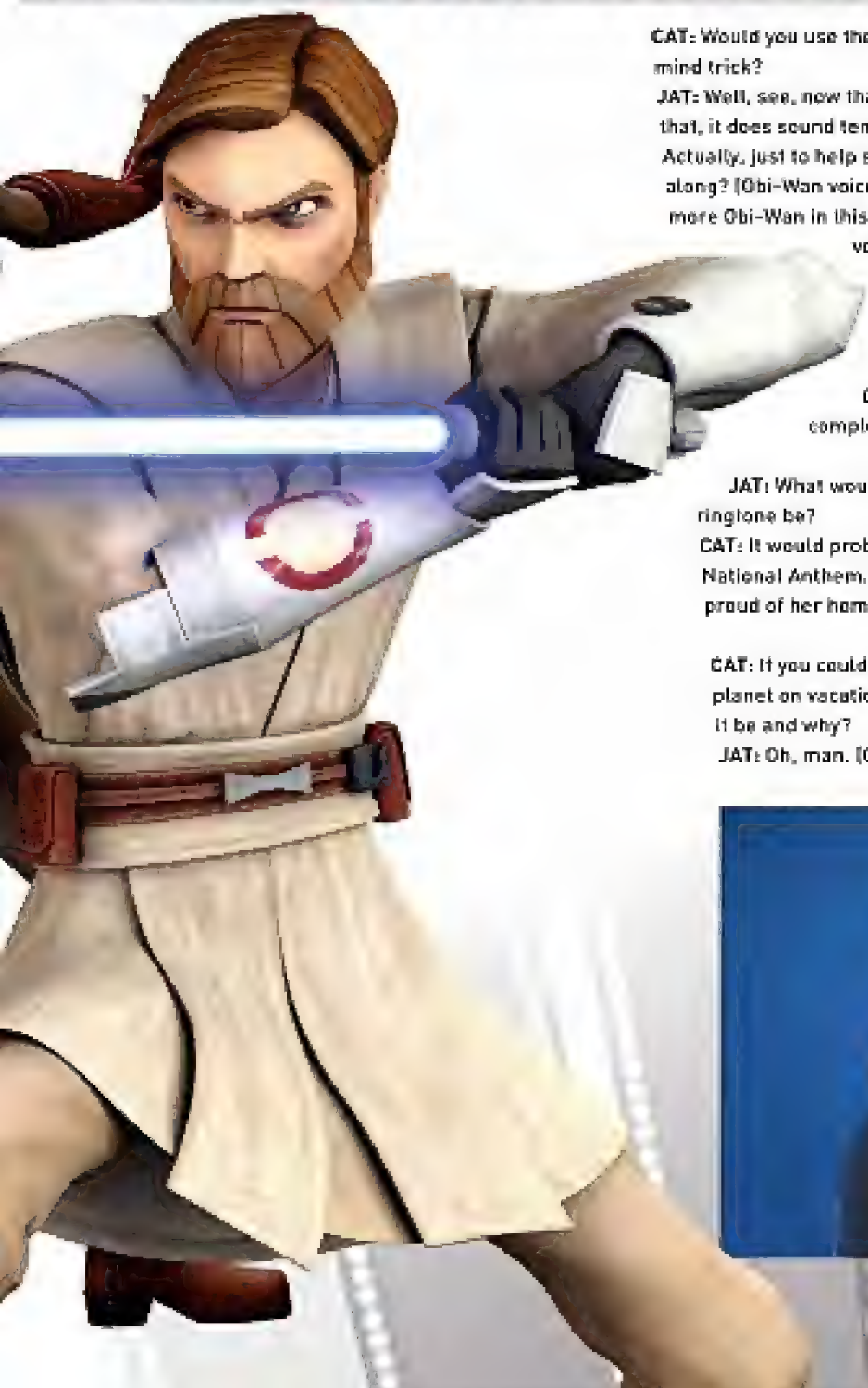
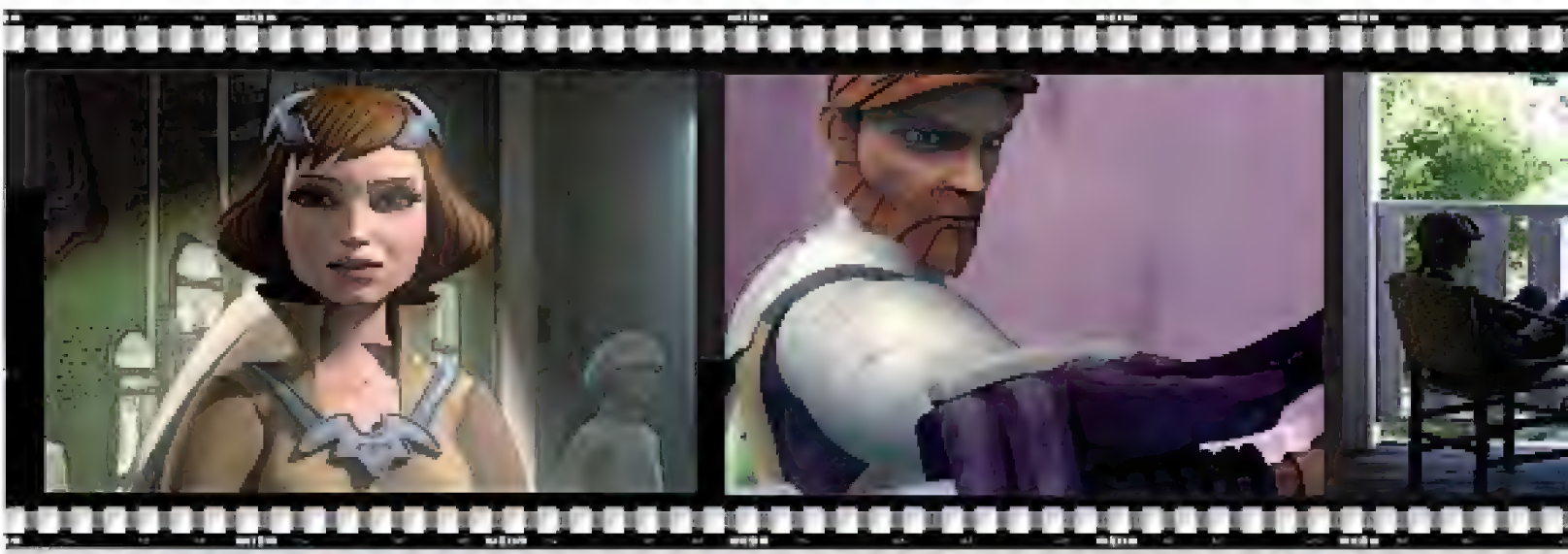
CAT: She's got them lined up in the closet, ready to go. Or maybe she just has a really good hair and makeup person? I would only like to be her for a day, since I know what ends up happening [in *Revenge of the Sith*]. I would really like to be Jaina, because she's also a Jedi! With Padmé I don't get to wield a lightsaber, unless I steal it from someone else.

CAT: If you had the Force in real life, how would you use it?

JAT: What do you mean, "if?" [In Obi-Wan voice] Well, I'd use it for

good and never evil. [JAT voice] On the show, I wonder, *Why didn't they use the Force there, why didn't they use it there?* I think the coolest thing is when Obi-Wan walks into a room and makes the chair spin around, then sits down—that type of stuff is simple. That's what I'd use it for. Those simple things.





CAT: Would you use the Jedi mind trick?

JAT: Well, see, now that you say that, it does sound tempting. Actually, just to help somebody along? [Obi-Wan voice] You want more Obi-Wan in this episode. [JAT voice] But that

won't work on Dave [Fillani, supervising director of *The Clone Wars*], he's completely immune!

JAT: What would Padmé's ringtone be?

CAT: It would probably be the Naboo National Anthem. She's definitely proud of her home world.

CAT: If you could visit any *Star Wars* planet on vacation, which one would it be and why?

JAT: Oh, man. [Obi-Wan voice] Well,

I certainly won't want to go to Mandalore. [JAT voice] Let's see, that is a great question. There's no beachfront properties, though. I'm a beach guy.

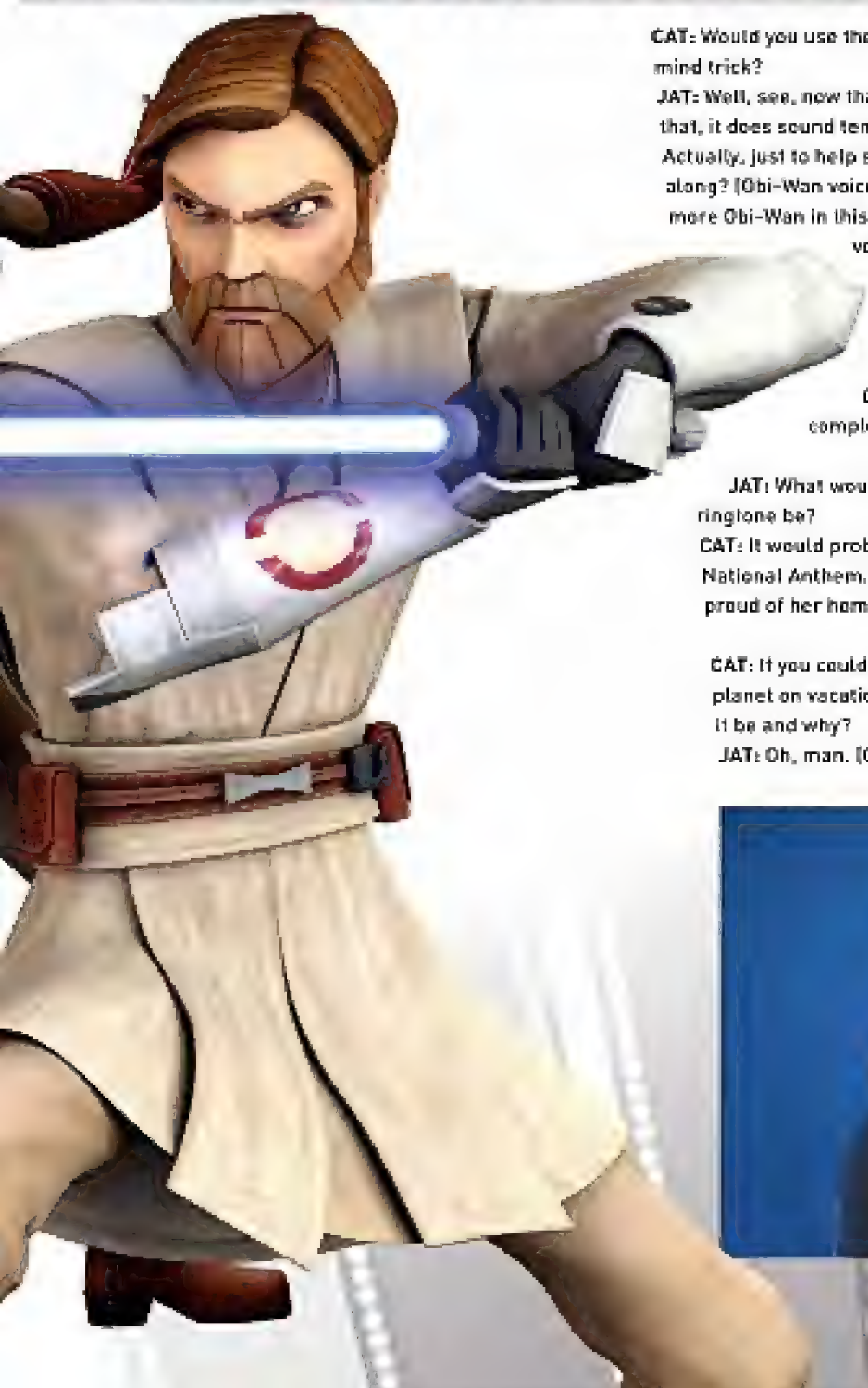
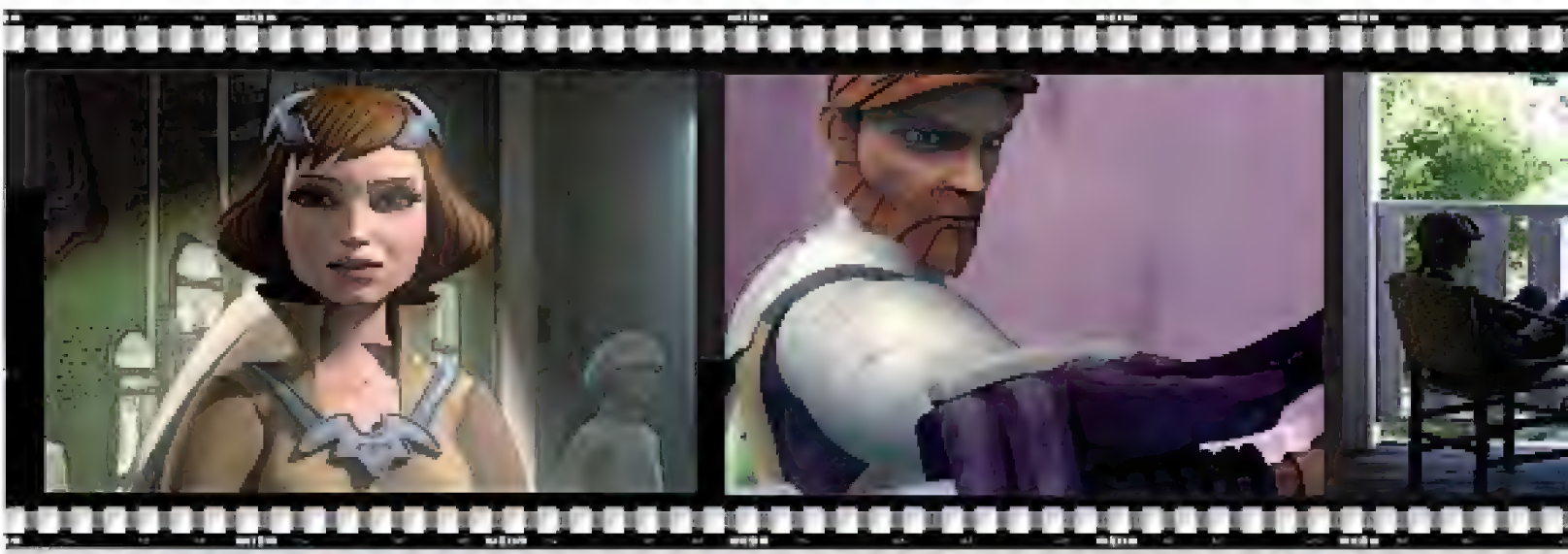
JAT: What's the best thing about *Star Wars* fans?

CAT: Hmmm, their enthusiasm is so great for the whole universe, that it causes them to be just so appreciative. When you meet someone at a convention, they're so happy to meet you. Talk about having a good day!

CAT: In real life you drive pretty much the coolest car in the world: a custom-made Tesla. What mode of transportation would you choose in the *Star Wars* universe? I actually have four choices for you:

- a) a luxurious Imperial cruiser;
- b) a sporty TIE fighter or X-wing;
- c) the *Millennium Falcon*; or d) a





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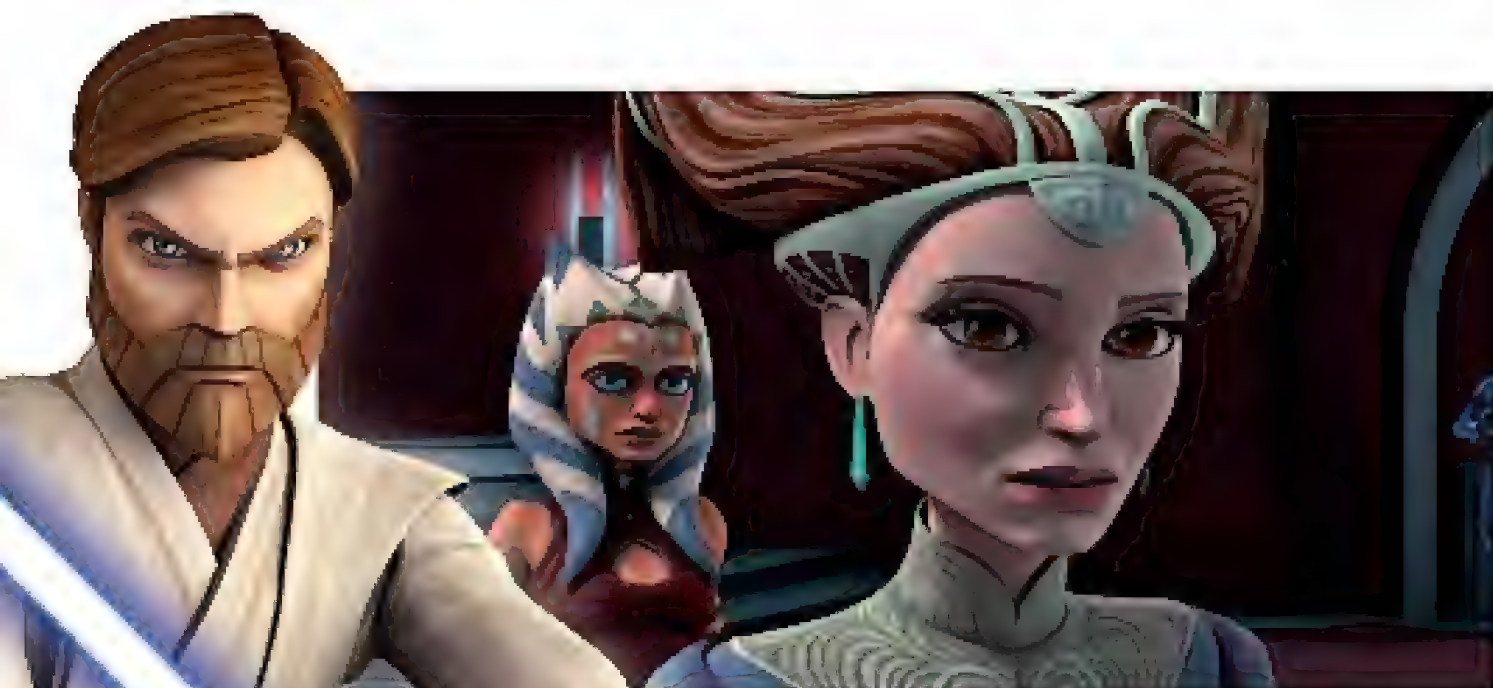
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tauntaun or dewback?
JAT: Yeah, I would go for a dewback! No, Obi-Wan is not going to be choosing any space travel. I would go for the greener route: A tauntaun. I know they smell bad.

JAT: OK, here's a classic question, but given a *Star Wars* slant. If you could have dinner with anyone in the *Star Wars* universe—not just characters, but people like George Lucas and Ben Burtt—who would you have dinner with?

CAT: If I could have dinner with a character, it would certainly be Yoda because of the way he teaches. If it was a real person, I think we would all love to have dinner with George—that goes without saying! I

would also love to have dinner with John Williams, because the music is such a major part of *Star Wars*. It would be really interesting to see what his process was like.

JAT: This is a silly one: Han or Anakin?

CAT: You know, that's funny because that has changed throughout my life. I really liked Luke when I was younger, and then I suddenly one day went, "I like Han." Now, with Anakin, the way he's portrayed by Matt [Lanter], he's so heroic, and he's cocky. I do like the scoundrel part of Han.

CAT: You voice many characters in *The Clone Wars*, but which one were you the most nervous to tackle and why?
JAT: Oh, Obi-Wan Kenobi. Not for the reason people would think—the main reason was because this character is so beloved. I had to do this justice. I really wanted to keep the role.





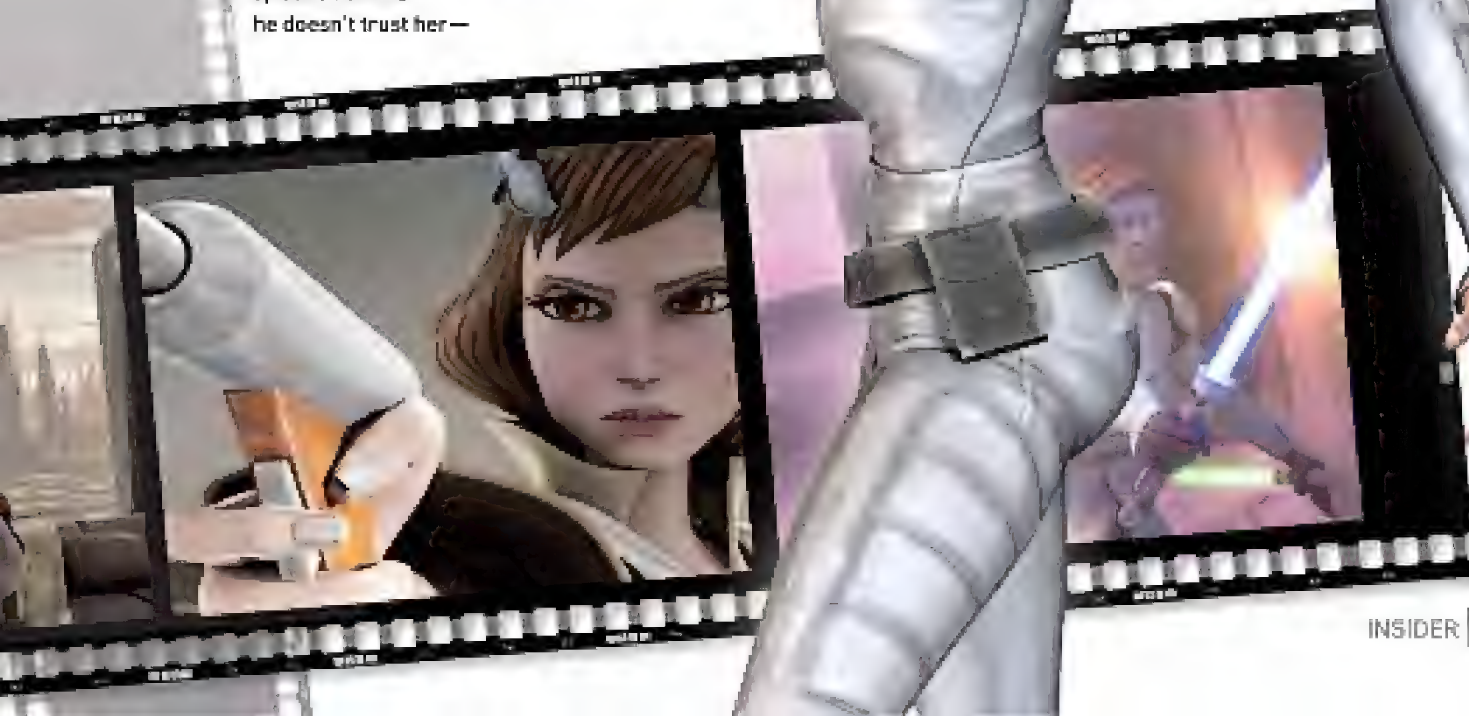
When I started doing this it was for the micro-series, and then the videogames, and I thought, *I hope something else comes of this.* There were always rumors that they would do this show—I wanted to be able to be attached to this character for the long term, because of my love for it, and the privilege to do it.

JAT: How is it that Obi-Wan and Padmé end up being as close as they are in *Revenge of the Sith*, where she trusts him? In Episode I and II, he doesn't trust her—

something has happened during this time and we don't know what that is. I think that's a great opportunity for a story. It would be fun to explore that because we generally don't get to exchange lines that often.

CAT: Obi-Wan often comments on my wonderful shooting skills.

JAT: It would be a great storyline that could have some action in it, so Padmé's not just stuck behind a desk, so to speak, and you know I like my gunplay! ☺







JEDI

ARCHIVE

RARELY SEEN IMAGES FROM THE LUCASFILM ARCHIVES

Main image: R2-D2, Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor), Anakin Skywalker (Jake Lloyd), and Qui-Gon Jinn (Liam Neeson) get ready to take on the Sith! From top left: Hayden Christensen laughs it up as Ewan McGregor hides behind his script; Natalie Portman shares a joke with Christensen on the *Attack of the Clones* set; a blue-clad figure doubles as a Geonosian guard much to the amusement of the star-crossed couple! 🌟



C

OMING OF AGE

AHSOKA TANO HAS GROWN IMMEASURABLY SINCE SHE FIRST BECAME ANAKIN SKYWALKER'S PADAWAN. ACTRESS ASHLEY ECKSTEIN REVEALS HOW HER TIME ON THE SHOW HAS BEEN A LEARNING CURVE AND WHY IT'S TIME FOR AHSOKA TO GET TOUGH!
WORDS: JONATHAN WILKINS

Star Wars Insider: You've got a new costume and a new look on the show. As a successful

clothes designer yourself, did you have any input in the designs?

Ashley Eckstein: I didn't have any input, but I thought they did a fantastic job. I'm in love with her new outfit and I hope to be able to sell pieces based on it because it looks fantastic. What girl would not want Ahsoka's new lights?

So could we see something like that in the Her Universe line at some point? Who knows? It's not even in planning stages, but it's on a wish list of things

I'd like to do. I joke with Dave [Filoni, supervising director of Star Wars: The Clone Wars] that he actually is quite the fashion designer. Not only did he knock it out the park with his Plo Koon and Ahsoka T-shirt for Her Universe, now he has designed Ahsoka's new look.

And she has two lightsabers. Two lightsabers are always better than one! I thought that was awesome that she got a second lightsaber. One of them is shorter, almost like a lightsaber dagger, which I thought was really cool.

Do you think that's a sign of her toughening up? She's definitely toughening up,

She's spent so much time with Anakin, Obi-Wan, and Plo Koon that she's taking on their fighting skills, especially Anakin's. Ahsoka has no fear, no fear at all. She just goes right at it. Sometimes Anakin is so spontaneous that he doesn't think about the Jedi way of doing things. Obi-Wan is more by the book. Ahsoka is definitely a combination of them both.

Is Anakin a bad influence? I wouldn't say Anakin is a bad influence, but he's not necessarily the best influence for promoting the Jedi way. Anakin does things his own way, so Ahsoka has definitely become more like Anakin. At times she acts in ways that would be

against what they would teach at the Jedi Temple. But thinking outside the box like Anakin and Ahsoka do is sometimes the best way to accomplish what you want. You have to take the good with the bad.

The upcoming Mortis episodes are very different from what we have seen to date. What was your reaction when you first read those scripts? The scripts of the three Mortis episodes really blew my mind. I couldn't believe that they were allowing us to tackle that storyline. There are some heavy questions about Anakin and who he is. It really affects the movies and ties them into our series. I think that's what so nice about our show—as we go along, we help explain things that happen in the movies and answer people's questions about why things are the way they are.

When we first started, some fans complained because our show would be part of *Star Wars* canon, but now I think they welcome the fact that they're getting some answers they always wanted.

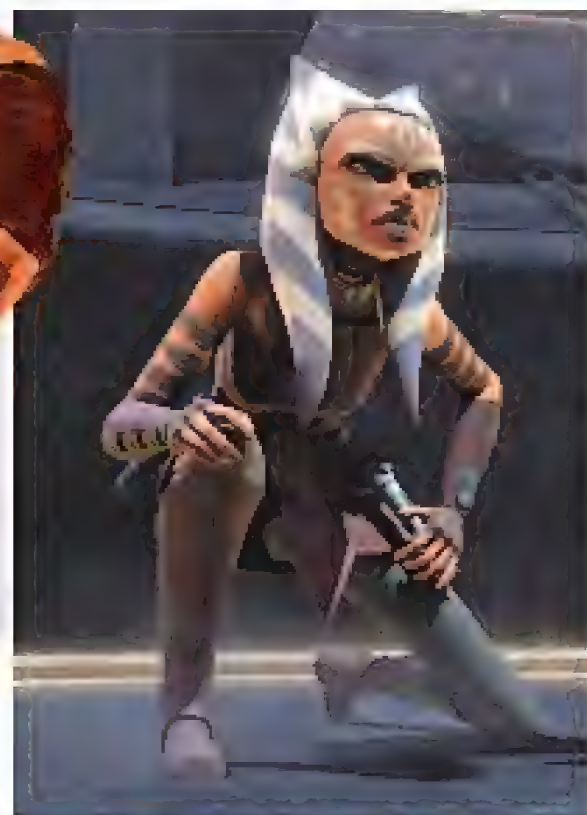
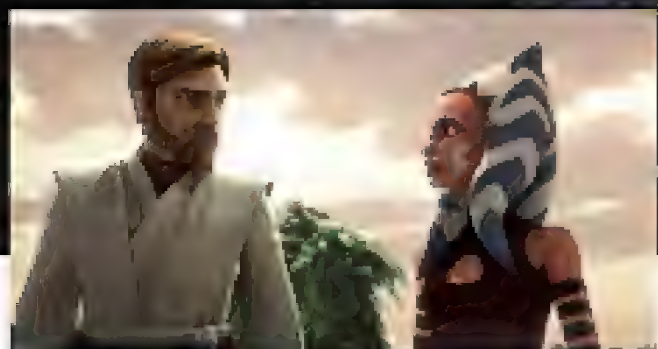
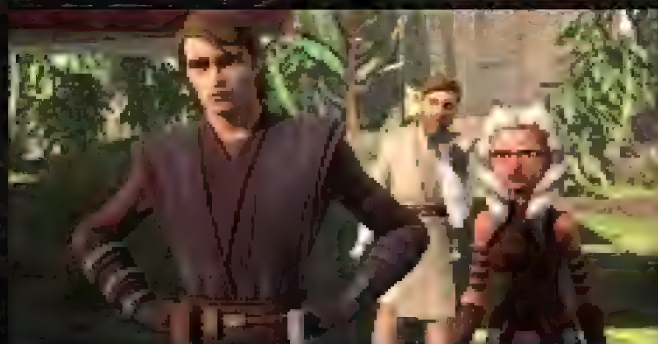
How did you approach these episodes as an actress? I had to approach them differently because Ahsoka goes through many personality transformations during this story. She grows up, and she goes through some extremely tough times. Just having to explore those different personalities, but still keeping them true to Ahsoka, was quite difficult for me.

There was one scene I wasn't quite hitting on the first try. Usually when we record an episode we only do three takes of every line, and then we move on. It's rare to do more than three takes of something.



Above: Ahsoka discovers the complexities of the war in "Heroes on Both Sides." Left: Ashley Eckstein and her best pal!

"[AHSOKA] GROWS UP, SHE GOES THROUGH SOME EXTREMELY TOUGH TIMES."



but this one particular scene we were doing over and over again. I was getting really frustrated that I couldn't nail it. I was so blessed to have James Arnold Taylor (Obi-Wan) in the studio with me. He came over and said, "Okay Ashley, calm down, you can do this. Try it this way," which was completely different than how I was doing it. It worked and that's the take they ended up using.

Would you like to explore other aspects of Ahsoka in the future? As an actress you always look for challenging opportunities and roles. Now that the cast have all become so familiar with our characters, it can become routine because playing your character becomes second nature. We've been working on the show for five years, so you automatically know how your character would say certain

"TWO LIGHTSABERS ARE ALWAYS BETTER THAN ONE!"

It's like going to school every time you go into a recording session. I'm constantly learning from the cast.

The animation in that particular scene just blew my mind. The animators continue to raise the bar, but they really went to town for the Mortis episodes. There's some stunning shots that we truly haven't seen before.

lines. To have opportunities that are challenging and [that] give you the chance to stretch your talents is definitely something that I look forward to. Putting Ahsoka into different situations, whether she seems evil, or whether she grows up, or whatever might happen to her in the future, is something that can be very rewarding to perform.



Does it really seem like five years since you started working on the show or has it gone really quickly? It has gone by very quickly. Where we [the cast] really notice it is in our friendships. We've gotten to know each other really well, and we're like a family. It's surpassed just a professional relationship where you arrive, shake hands, and say, "Hi, good to see you again," to where you walk in and give that person a hug and say, "How's it going? How're your wife and your children?" That's where I realize we're creating a family here similar to our characters and how close our characters are. The Jedi might not like attachments, but we've

definitely become attached to each other.

What sort of direction did Dave Filoni give for these episodes?

Dave's direction was imperative for these episodes. It always is, but [especially for] these in particular because they were such a stretch for our characters. We were coming out of our element and we had to give more dramatic performances, so we had to rely on Dave to paint that picture for us. We also went to a new location that we'd never been to before, so it really was uncharted territory! There was certainly a dramatic, intense feeling inside the studio for this story arc! Everybody





was very serious, and we were all very into our characters.

Matt Lanter, who is such a fantastic actor, takes his character acting very seriously.

I like to watch him before he starts recording getting into

character;

that's really cool. These

are huge

episodes

for Anakin;

he's the

centerpiece of these episodes. Matt has the weight of the story on his shoulders, so to see him get into character and go to that place was amazing to watch.

Did you expect the show to be so challenging on a dramatic level?

I certainly didn't expect this level of drama. We knew that we were going to be tackling storylines that were set during the Clone Wars, but I don't think I ever imagined that we would play such an integral part in the overall story of *Star Wars*.

"AHSOKA HAS NO FEAR, NO FEAR AT ALL."

You have said that Dave is your master and you're his Padawan. What's the best advice he's given you?

To trust my instincts.

That was one thing he wanted from the very beginning. He wanted me to bring a lot of myself to Ahsoka, and he still encourages that. The fact that he trusted me to help him create this new character for *Star Wars* is something I feel honored about. That Dave and George would be open



to listening to my opinion is great. They let me bring a lot of suggestions and my own personality to the characterization of Ahsoka.

Dave leads by example. To see how far he's come professionally over the course of those five years has been incredible. I think he's just tapping into his talents—he is such a talented man and to watch him, he won't take no for an answer. If George Lucas says, "Dave you need to go create this," even if it seems against all odds and has never been done on television before, Dave will find a way to do it, and he'll do it the best he possibly can. He encourages me to do just that. He's really a fantastic Jedi Master for me to follow—I've learned a lot from him.

Nika Futterman said that she'd like to see Asajj Ventress in a rematch with Ahsoka. Why do you think Ahsoka would win? Well, Ventress is pretty tough, but Ahsoka's come a long way since they first fought. I think that it would be a tough battle, but Ahsoka's got two lightsabers now so



it's definitely more of an even match. I can imagine my tears if Ahsoka lost, because I've become so emotionally invested in her that the thought of her not being around is very sad. But what's the exact quote? "Always in motion is the future?" Who knows what will happen?

Ahsoka's come a very long way since the *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* movie. Where would you like to see her go next?

I don't have any say in the storylines, so I don't really know her overall story. I think she's truly going in the direction that I think the fans

want her to go in, and she's maturing in ways that I think they were hoping. I like that she has more responsibility and she's getting tough. I have to say we have such fantastic writers and obviously Dave is such an amazing supervising director, so I trust where they're going to take her. They haven't made any mistakes so far and I don't see them ever making a mistake with her because they're truly invested in the character of Ahsoka. I'm honored to be a part of the ride. ☺

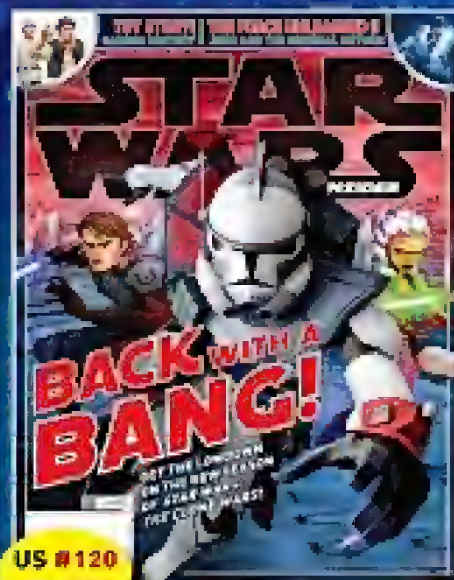
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ADVANCED SOUND



THREE ACCOMPLISHED LUCASFILM SOUND DESIGNERS ASSEMBLED ON ONE STAGE TO SPEAK WITH FANS AT *STAR WARS* CELEBRATION V IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA. BEN BURTT, PIONEERING SOUND DESIGNER FOR THE *STAR WARS* AND *INDIANA JONES* FILMS, SAT DOWN WITH MATTHEW WOOD, SUPERVISING SOUND EDITOR FOR THE *STAR WARS* PREQUEL TRILOGY AND *THE CLONE WARS* ANIMATED SERIES. DAVID COLLINS, LEAD SOUND DESIGNER AND VOICE DIRECTOR AT LUCASARTS, HOSTED THE EVENT AND CONDUCTED THE INTERVIEW. WORDS: TONY A. ROWE



TURF IN DESIGN

After creating the iconic sounds of the original *Star Wars* trilogy and winning four Academy Awards, Ben Burtt had already ensured his name was in the annals of motion picture history. When time came to create the prequel trilogy, even the master found himself facing unexpected challenges: "In the early 90s, I became a film editor and director for about five years and wasn't keeping up with sound technology," says Burtt. "When the prequels started, there was suddenly this world called 'digital.' The old ways of editing sound with razor blades, glue, and rolls of film were changing rapidly."

Burtt found a guide into the digital world of *The Phantom Menace* in his collaboration with Matthew Wood. "I am indebted to Matt because he was the young, self-taught, kid genius. I got ushered into the digital age with his great help. He would show me how to cut sound with a mouse and a keyboard instead of a splicer.

He became my teacher, though he may eventually rise up and kill me!"

Wood remembers that time from a different perspective. "I was just trembling in my boots the whole time that I was working with the legend, Ben Burtt," Wood says. "When I first started at Lucasfilm, I'd sneak into a restricted, archived library of sounds that were still on reel-to-reel tapes. I'd pull some tracks and listen to them with headphones while acting like I was doing something official. The carbon-freezing chamber [sound effect] was my favorite."

Wood first assisted Burtt in upgrading the audio equipment for production on the prequels. "I thought the job would only last a few weeks but now it's been 15 years since we first worked together," Wood reminisces. "I was honored to work with him. To be able to teach him something was fantastic because I got to observe and learn sound design, his work

techniques, and how to work with the crew. He's really been a guiding light for me."

This first task was simple compared with the Herculean job of upgrading the sound library. They needed a system to handle some 1,200 new sounds for *The Phantom Menace* along with all the material from the original trilogy. Most of the work fell upon Burt's shoulders: "I like organizing; I like every sound created to have a name and a number because you end up with hundreds and thousands of sounds. I got into a discussion with Matt to figure out a way to catalog everything in one new, uniform system. Matt made me sit down to type a name and description for each of the thousands of sounds to start a database. Up until that point, it was only written down in notebooks or on the back of tapes with felt-tip markers. We needed something in a digital form for archival purposes."

"He'd had an amazing library to make all these great [effects]," Wood recalls. "None of it was labeled. None of it was categorized." Only Burt understood the library's organization and spent countless hours creating the database. Wood teases Burt, "You were kind of cranky during that time. Now it is all done and never has to be done again."



All aboard! Burt (left) on the set of *Rings*, *Indiana Jones* and *The Phantom Train of Doom* with cameraman Chris Bramley (middle) and director of photography David Tattersall (right)





The EdII Droid team flanks George Lucas (center).



Wood doesn't mind reminding Burtt that his own show benefits from those initial labors. "Now it can all be used—and stolen for *The Clone Wars*," Wood says.

Although Burtt hasn't worked on *The Clone Wars* animated series, he approves of the continuation of his work. "My career has taken me away to Pixar and off into other, new films. [When] I walk back to my old room, which is now *The Clone Wars* room, the sounds I hear coming through the door all sound like *Star Wars* to me. I feel that I can totally trust them. The language of sound that was established, starting with George's ideas, is being taken further. The universe keeps expanding and the library keeps going. I was always hesitant to turn the *Star Wars* job over to anyone; I was very protective and kept close control over the sounds. With Matt, he understood the value of it and has taken over that job. I feel comfortable," Burtt says.

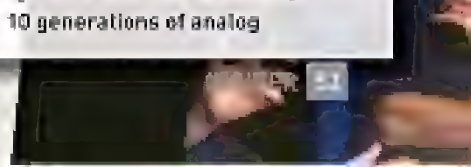
After the prequel trilogy was complete, the pair reunited on another well-loved space fantasy film: Pixar's *WALL-E*. Andrew Stanton, the film's writer and director, told Burtt that he wanted to create "R2-D2: the Movie." Burtt explains, "What he was saying is that he had a main character that had expressive sounds and wasn't going to speak in words that we understand. Fortunately, R2-D2 and the droids in *Star Wars* had led the way. Audiences have been brought up understanding robots, something that was ground-breaking when it was done in the first films. It allowed *WALL-E* to have a basis as a successful concept. After I spent three years on *WALL-E*, I got together with Matt to co-supervise the sound editing on the film. It came back over to Skywalker Sound, as all Pixar films do, for sound editing and mixing.

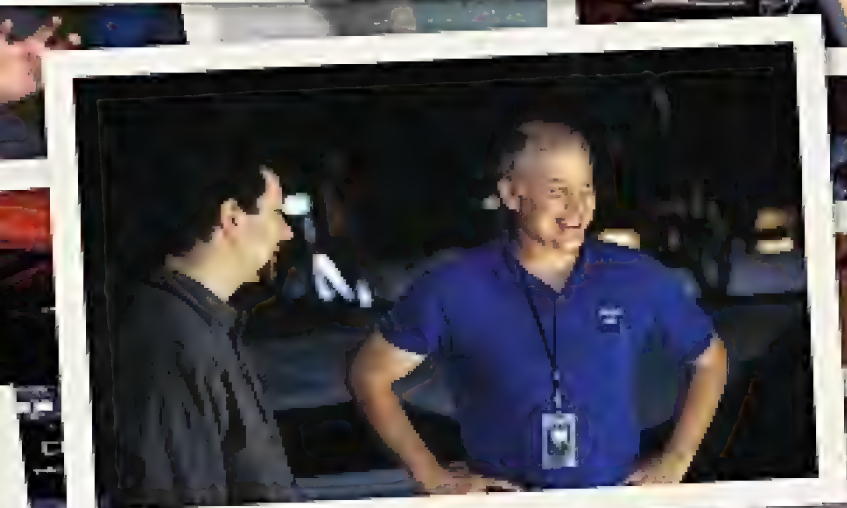
"Matt also connected our studios that were separated by 25 miles or so. He found a way to have a broadband connection so that sounds and images on a screen at Pixar could be mirrored in the sound design room at Skywalker. We could play and review sounds over a distance."

At that time, Pixar built a dedicated sound studio nicknamed "Soundhenge." Even after his three years at Pixar, Burtt did not find his name on the door: "They put a plaque on the office that said 'Matt Wood,'" says Burtt.

From Wood's point of view, this plaque brought balance to the Force. "I had Ben's name on the [Skywalker Sound office] door. For the longest time, we both had our names on each other's doors," says Wood.

Collins next asked Burtt how digital technology changed his approach for sound design. Burtt replied, "Some things changed; some things did not change. The aspect of going out into the world around us to capture sounds for *Star Wars* stayed the same. Generation loss used to be a gigantic problem in the pre-digital days; an original sound recorded on tape went through at least 10 generations of analog





rather than the technical," Burti says.

Finally, Burti offers advice to anyone interested in a career in sound design. "I find there are generally two groups of sound people," he says. "One group is made up of technical experts: they understand the latest software, know the latest microphones, and are passionately interested in the bleeding edge of technology. The other group is less interested in technology and more interested in [the performance of a sound]. 'What kind of sound can I make by twisting this broken piece of leather around a wax paper plate?' They are thinking about how sounds can be used to give a dramatic dimension to a scene. Most successful sound [crews have members from] these two groups because they need each other. Occasionally, you find an individual who embodies both groups. As you are studying sound, don't neglect either of these areas.

"Build your own sound effects library. Get an audio recorder, go out, and listen. Here's my rule: If a sound catches your attention, like a broken motor in a grocery store refrigerator, record it. By recognizing it, you know that it stands out in some way and has a feature that is going to be usable later." ☺

duplication by the time it got to the theater. A great deal of effort always went into quality control and noise reduction or else sounds degraded terribly. With digital, that was no longer really an issue. That lifted a lot of stress from the sound editors and allowed them to focus on the creative [aspects]. Another huge difference was that a library could be put into digital form to be browsed very quickly. We used to keep sound on old strips of film, sometimes broken up and hung on hooks. It took a long time to find a component for something. A digital library can be browsed within a few seconds.

"The digital revolution for visual effects has [allowed creators to] synthesize models, textures, costumes, and characters in the studio. That kind of revolution didn't happen to sound. Sound is partly documentary filmmaking. The digital tools haven't allowed us to turn dials to create a voice. We still have to find those things in the real world. Digital made it much more convenient for us to do our work; more time can be spent on the creative



Q & A WITH BEN BURTT AT CELEBRATION V

During Ben Burtt's panel at Celebration V, he answered questions from fans. Here are some of the best!

What is your favorite sound that you created for Star Wars?

My favorite *Star Wars* sound is the first sound I made: the lightsaber. I went out to the studio for one of my first [meetings] and saw Ralph McQuarrie's artwork on the wall showing these glowing sabers. I thought that was a fantastic visual. This was long before they filmed anything. I was a projectionist at the USC cinema department and I remembered the hum of the projection motors as I sat there in the booth. There were two of them and you could get a musical tone going between them. I thought, *Gosh, this is the [lightsaber], so that [sound] was discovered within 24 hours. Nobody challenged it; everybody loved it right from the beginning.*

What is your favorite sound that you created for a non-*Star Wars* project?

I love gunshots, so I'm going to say Indiana Jones' pistol. In the *Indiana Jones* movies everything was exaggerated; pistols became cannons.

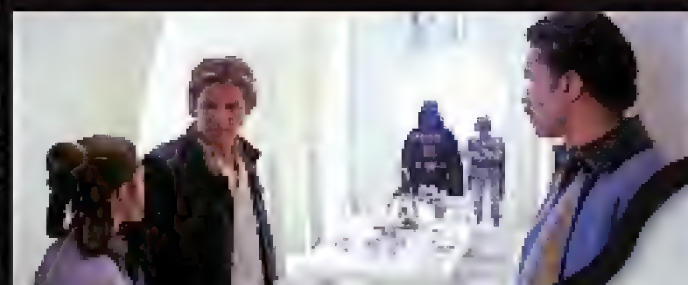
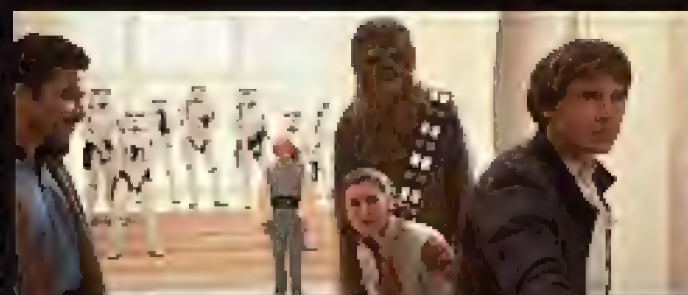
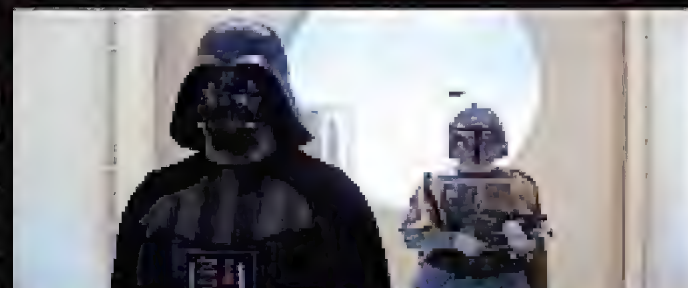
What are some of the oldest sound recordings that you have used in a film?

I've been going through all of my old tapes to digitize them, and have been discovering old things. I was working on the film *Munich* a few years ago. I discovered that I had recorded some propeller driven passenger airplanes flying over my house back in the 1960s. That was just what we needed, period

sounds on recordings that were good enough to use in the movie. While filming *Return of the Jedi* in London, I made sure to record all of the telephones in the hotel and studio. Telephone rings change over the years as technology changes. I needed vintage phone rings and I had them. Sometimes the most mundane things are something you can snag for later.

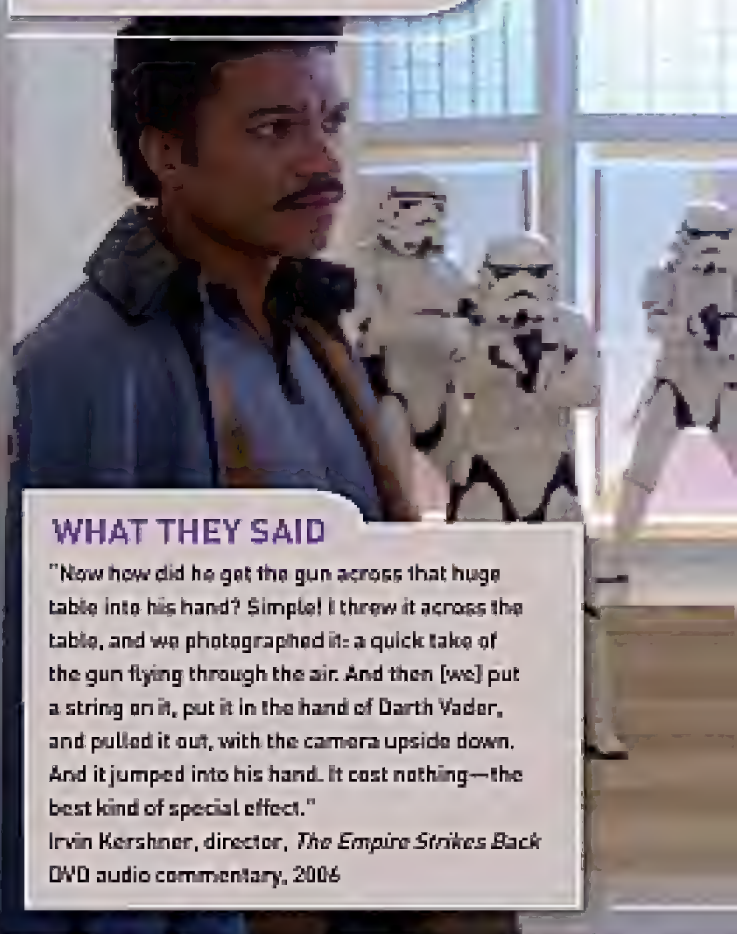
What is the oldest unused recording in your library?
I have a folder [of sounds] on my computer called "To Be Filed." I like them, but I'm not sure what to do with them. One of them goes back to [my work on] *Star Wars*: I made a loop out of a door thump that sounds like a heartbeat. I've never used it yet. ♫





CLASSIC MOMENT

STAR WARS: EPISODE V
THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK
DVD CHAPTER 38



WHAT THEY SAID

"Now how did he get the gun across that huge table into his hand? Simple! I threw it across the table, and we photographed it: a quick take of the gun flying through the air. And then [we] put a string on it, put it in the hand of Darth Vader, and pulled it out, with the camera upside down. And it jumped into his hand. It cost nothing—the best kind of special effect."

Irvin Kershner, director, *The Empire Strikes Back*
DVD audio commentary, 2006

INT. CLOUD CITY – CORRIDOR – DAY

LEIA walks between HAN and LANDO as CHEWIE follows a short distance behind. Long shafts of light pour across a corridor between tall, pure-white columns.

LANDO So, you see, since we're a small operation, we don't fall into the...uh...jurisdiction of the Empire.

LEIA So you're part of the mining guild then?

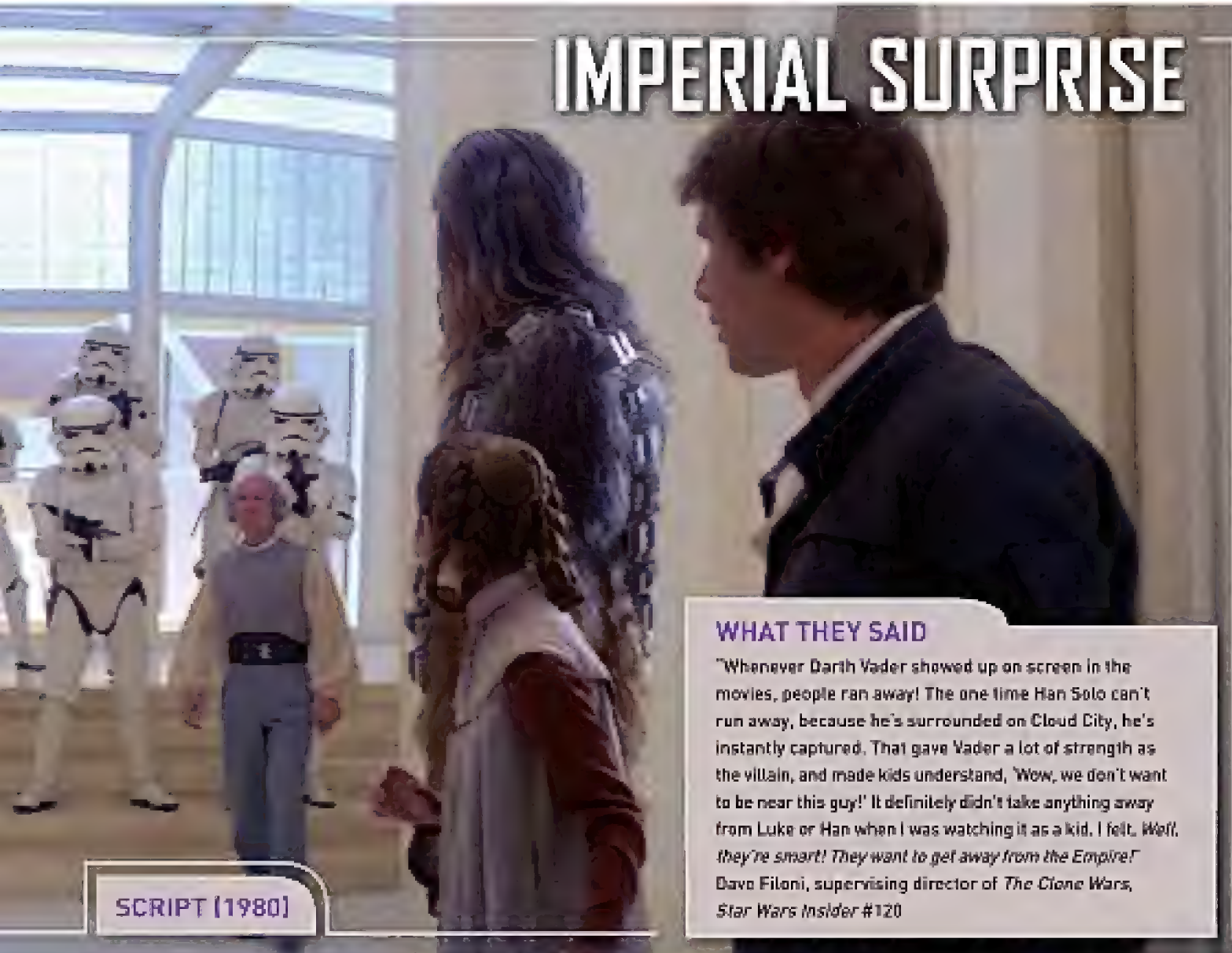
LANDO No, not actually. Our operation is small enough not to be noticed...which is advantageous for everybody since our customers are anxious to avoid attracting attention to themselves.

The group walks into another corridor

WHY IT'S A CLASSIC

Throughout the original trilogy, our heroes are often running from Vader and his Imperial forces, and this scene really illustrates why. Surprised by Vader's unexpected appearance in the Cloud City dining hall, our heroes are helpless and unable to do anything to resist once the Dark Lord has disarmed Han Solo. In *A New Hope*, Han scoffed at the idea of the Force being superior to a good blaster at your side, but Vader proves that Han can no longer be certain about that. We also see how stormtroopers strike fear into their enemies by overwhelming them with numbers and blocking any chance of escape. In this scene, then, we see just how effective Vader and the Empire are at extinguishing hope in those they pursue. The net has been closing in on the Rebels throughout the film, and here they're finally trapped.

IMPERIAL SURPRISE



SCRIPT (1980)

WHAT THEY SAID

"Whenever Darth Vader showed up on screen in the movies, people ran away! The one time Han Solo can't run away, because he's surrounded on Cloud City, he's instantly captured. That gave Vader a lot of strength as the villain, and made kids understand, 'Wow, we don't want to be near this guy!' It definitely didn't take anything away from Luke or Han when I was watching it as a kid. I felt, *Well, they're smart! They want to get away from the Empire!*"
Dave Filoni, supervising director of *The Clone Wars*, *Star Wars Insider* #120



and heads for a huge doorway at the far end.

LEIA: Aren't you afraid the Empire's going to find out about this little operation and shut you down?

LEIA: It's always been a danger looming like a shadow over everything we've built here. But things have developed that will ensure security. I've just made a deal that will keep the Empire out of here forever.

INT. CLOUD CITY - DINING ROOM - DAY

The mighty doors to the dining room slide open and the group enters the dining room. At the far end of a huge banquet table sits DARTH VADER.

Faster than the wink of an eye, HAN draws his BLASTER and pops off a few shots directly at VADER. The Dark Lord quickly raises his hand, deflecting the bolts into one of the side walls, where they explode harmlessly.

Just as quickly, HAN's weapon zips into VADER's hand.

VADER: We would be honored if you would join us.

BOBA FETT, the bounty hunter, steps out from behind VADER, Imperial STORMTROOPERS cut off the adventurers' escape.

LEIA: I had no choice. They arrived right before you did. I'm sorry.

LEIA: I'm sorry, too.

NEXT TIME: DEATH STAR SWING

STAR WARS INSIDER

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

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EDITED BY NEIL EDWARDS

BLASTER

63 COMICS

ONE FOR ALL

KERRA HOLT FACES THE SITH
ALONE IN *KNIGHT ERRANT*

60 BOOKS

Kerra Holt battles dueling Sith Lords in *Knight Errant* the novel, and Darth Malgus takes center stage in *Star Wars: The Old Republic—Deceived*.

63 ASK LOBOT

Leland Y. Chee returns from Cloud City with the answers to all your questions!

70 MIGHTY BEANZ

Star Wars characters are sent into a spin by Mighty Beanz!

72 BOUNTY HUNTERS

Meet the stars, show the evidence, win the Bounty!

74 BANTHA TRACKS

For the fans, by the fans!

66 INCOMING
THE LATEST STAR WARS GEAR
TO COLLECT!



"THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A GOOD
BLASTER AT YOUR SIDE, KID."

BOOKS

IN *KNIGHT ERRANT*, KERRA HOLT FIGHTS THE SITH ALONE
WORDS: DANIEL WALLACE

IN THE ENEMY'S CAMP

"If she were to overthrow one Sith Lord, somebody even worse would take his or her place."

During the height of Sith power a thousand years before the events of *A New Hope*, one Jedi went behind enemy lines to liberate a sector. Comic book readers have already met this gutsy heroine, Kerra Holt, in the *Knight Errant* comics series, which began in October. This February, however, Kerra gets her own novel, which will continue her crusade in Sith space and introduce her to a new set of fans.

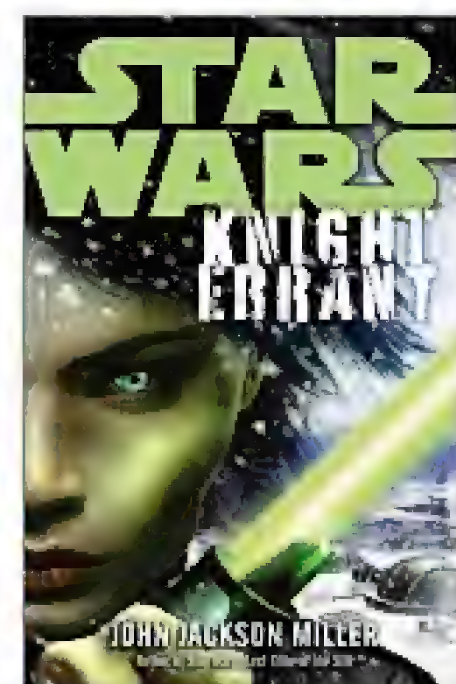
"We've carefully crafted both the novel and the comics series so that readers of one won't have to read the other to fully understand the story," explains John Jackson Miller, Kerra Holt's creator and the writer of both projects. "But the realm that Kerra enters—a place where Sith Lords are constantly fighting with each other—is an interesting environment, and readers interested in learning more will be drawn to the other medium."

In *Knight Errant* things are as bad as they can be for the Republic, which has completely abandoned the Rim territories after generations of plague and war. Kerra Holt is the sole hope for breaking the hold of the Sith Lords in the region, but ruined infrastructure and zero communication force her to fly blind.

"We're talking about the dark ages for the Republic, so I took inspiration from the actual Dark Ages in Europe," says Miller. "Consider Britain, one of the farthest-flung colonies of the Roman Empire. As conditions in Rome deteriorated, assistance to the outer regions diminished and then vanished entirely. The former imperial citizens had to fend for themselves against barbarians and warrior kings. In our story, the Republic creates a protective cocoon by deactivating the communications relays, in a sense that's like Hadrian's Wall. Unfortunately it's not much help if you live on the other side!"

The mad Sith siblings Daiman and Odion debuted in the comic, but that was just a taste of the insanity that awaits Kerra in the novel, as she enters the heart of the Grumani sector. Revolution piles upon revelation as Kerra meets more Sith Lords and discovers their wildly divergent paths to power. Again, Miller took a cue from history to create a believable setting.

"In the early 20th Century you had the Soviets disagreeing with China disagreeing with Vietnam," he says, "all nominally Communist states, but all very different in aims and approach. It struck me that in a galaxy so large, and



with the Sith focus on individuality so strong, that you wouldn't have cookie-cutter Sith statelets. They all reflect different takes on Sith philosophy."

During Kerra's first mission into Sith space, she witnessed the death of her Master and found herself stranded with no chance for safe extraction back to the Republic. Kerra isn't the type to give up, but the novel explores the question of how she can know that she's doing more good than harm. "In many cases," says Miller, "if she were to overthrow one Sith Lord, somebody even worse would take [his or her] place."

Miller has done a huge amount of world-building for his new Grumani sector setting, much of it still unseen. It goes without saying that he would love to tell Kerra's tale for a long time to come.

"My intention is to confront Kerra with a lot of different threats," he says, likening her mission to a Greek mythological odyssey. "There are many Sith Lords here. The menace that is represented by the Sith is not something that can be dealt with by blowing up one superweapon someplace. It is a great tangle of threads that binds the people, and they're going to have to be cut one at a time!"

MEET THE NEW DARTH

A VILLAIN STEALS THE SPOTLIGHT IN THE SECOND *OLD REPUBLIC* NOVEL

The upcoming multiplayer game *The Old Republic* earned its massive buzz with a 2009 cinematic trailer that depicted a jaw-dropping fight between a Sith Lord and a Jedi defender inside Coruscant's besieged Jedi Temple. The same Sith who kicked butt in the trailer now stares from the cover of *Star Wars: The Old Republic—Deceived*, the book that will place Darth Malgus among the ranks of *Star Wars*' toughest bad guys.

"With Malgus, we get a Sith Lord who is loyal to the Sith Empire and its aims, but who is also a dedicated servant of the Force as he sees it," explains writer Paul S. Kemp (*Star Wars: Crosscurrent*). "He's also fiercely loyal to Eleena, his 'wife.' Those three things are the pillars of his existence. In *Deceived* they come into conflict for

the first time, and thereby hangs a tale."

Though *Deceived* is the second novel to take place in *The Old Republic*'s ancient timeframe (following Sean Williams' *Fatal Alliance*), it's a standalone work, not a sequel. The book's central event is the same one depicted in the trailer: the sacking of Coruscant and the triumph of the Sith over the Jedi. *Deceived* deals with the raid and its aftermath, and roughly half the narrative is told from the point of view of Darth Malgus.

"He's definitely not a hero," says Kemp, "and he's not an anti-hero. My goal was to create a character that readers can respect but still abhor. I very much enjoy writing characters who live in a moral twilight."



CLONE WARS STRIKE!



WITH *DUEL AT SHATTERED ROCK*, YOUR THIRD MISSION IS A GO

Star Wars: The Clone Wars Secret Missions 3—Duel at Shattered Rock continues the young-reader adventures of the Jedi Padawan Nuru Kungurama and the clones of Breakout Squad. And if the title promises a high-adventure showdown, writer Ryder Windham says it's no accident. "All the *Star Wars* movie titles evoke the spirit of classic adventure serials," he says. "I wanted each Secret Missions book to have a distinctive title that was specific to the story. When you

consider how many books have one or two-word titles that can be easily swapped with other books, you realize that some of the more lurid titles are the most memorable!"

Young hero Nuru Kungurama is a very likeable lead and has an intriguing background—he's a Chiss, the same species as Grand Admiral Thrawn and one that is largely unknown to the Republic during this timeframe. "Although Nuru is first and foremost a Jedi, his Chiss background is significant and drives certain parts of the storyline," says Windham.

COMICS

FETT PURSUES A LOST TREASURE IN *BOBA FETT AND THE SHIP OF FEAR* WORDS: DANIEL WALLACE

RELIC RAIDER



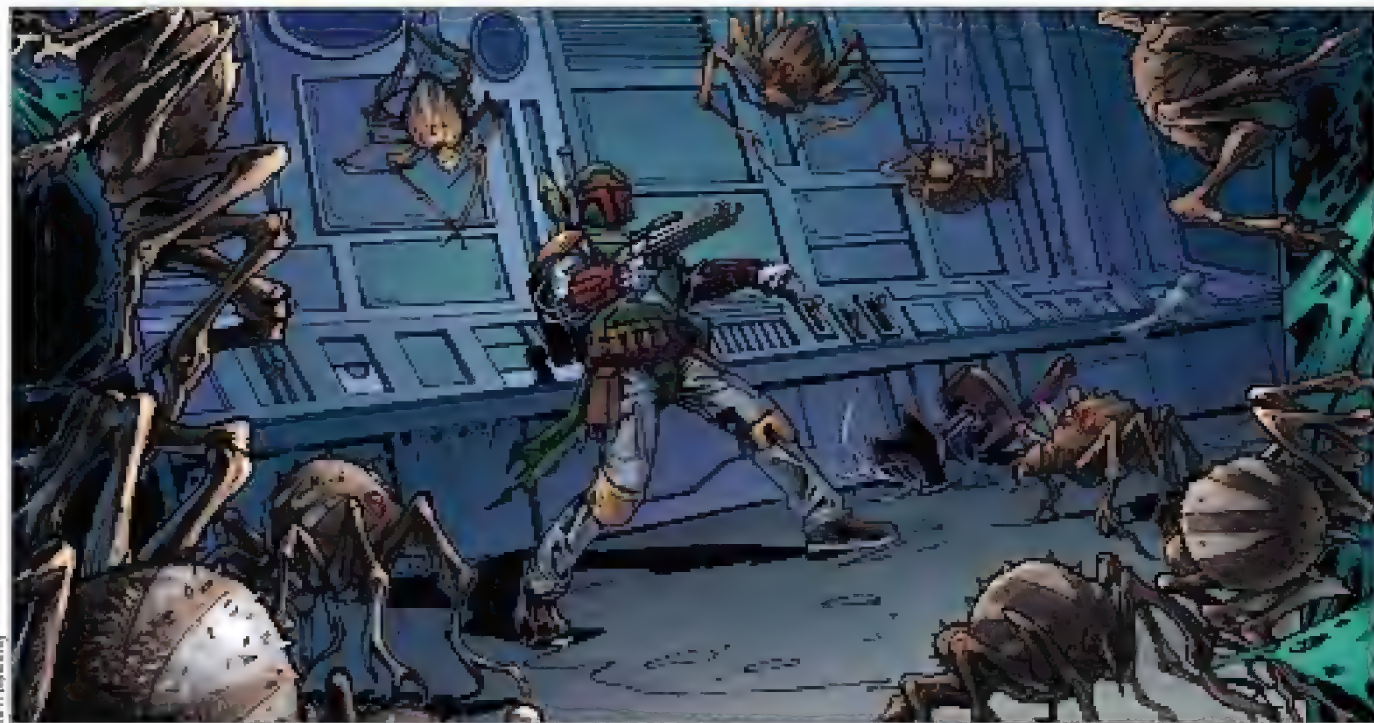
The latest installment in the digest-sized *Star Wars Adventures* series brings the saga back to its pulp-adventure roots, as fan-favorite bounty hunter Boba Fett embarks on a treasure hunt. The prize? A vanished relic believed to have been carried aboard the *Reverie*, a 400-year old starliner. Fett has the map and the motivation to score some easy credits, but two other trackers are racing to get there first. These bounty-hunting brothers have an axe to grind with Fett, and that's not the only complication. The *Reverie* should be abandoned, but something lurks aboard the ghost ship—something that none of

them are prepared to face.

Star Wars Adventures: Boba Fett and the Ship of Fear is a self-contained, 80-page story by writer Jeremy Barlow (*Metacatypse/Dethklok*) and artist Daxiong (*Star Wars Adventures: Luke Skywalker and the Treasure of the Dragonsnakes*). Appropriate for all ages, the graphic novel is out March 2, 2011.



Cover art: Sean McNulty



Art: Daxiong

CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED

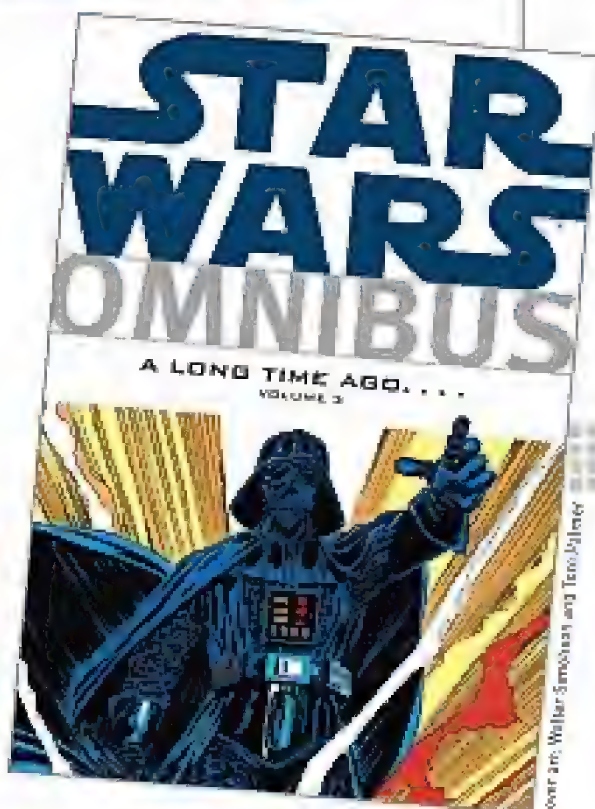
EXPERIENCE THE HEART OF MARVEL'S *STAR WARS*
RUN IN THE NEWEST OMNIBUS

Marvel's *Star Wars* series was arguably the most important spin-off from the timeframe of the original trilogy, defining the Expanded Universe before the term even existed. There's no better way to collect the Marvel issues than Dark Horse's Omnibus volumes, and the latest installment covers the series in its prime.

Star Wars Omnibus: A Long Time Ago.... Volume 3 collects issues #50-67, which originally appeared during 1981-1983 following the release of *The Empire Strikes Back*. Writer David Michelinie and artist Walter Simonson (Thor) tell most of

the tales, including certified classics like the mission to destroy the *Tarkin* superweapon and the introduction of Rebel pilot and Imperial double agent Shira Brie. Other highlights include Archie Goodwin and Al Williamson's double-length Han Solo story, Chris Claremont's (*Uncanny X-Men*) homage to John Carter of Mars, and the debut of the cute bunny-like telepaths called Hoojibs.

A Long Time Ago.... Volume 3 runs nearly 500 pages and goes on sale February 16.



Boards: Walter Simonson and Al Williamson; Inks: Tom Palmer

Cover art: Walter Simonson and Tom Palmer



ASK LOBOT

As related to:
Leland Y. Chee

What happened to Yoda's lightsaber? The *Revenge of the Sith* left when Palpatine used Force lightning, and well, never seen again. What happened to it? Was it destroyed? Was it lost? Did anyone ever experience it? Danis_Vene@starwars.com message boards.

The lightsaber was lost and never recovered. Note that the lightsaber that Yoda gave to Qui-Rahn, which eventually ended up in the hands of the dark-sider known as Plie, had a gold blade, and was not the weapon that Yoda used to fight Palpatine.





HEART OF DARKNESS

KERRA HOLT ENDS HER FIRST SITH TOUR OF DUTY IN *KNIGHT ERRANT*

Knigh *Errant* isn't just the tale of one outnumbered Jedi, or an exploration of a new era of *Star Wars* history, or a wealth of never-revealed secrets about the Sith. It's a multimedia project unfolding in both comic and book formats, and the inaugural, five-part comics story arc comes to its explosive finale this February.

With "Allame," covering issues #1-5 of the *Knight Errant* comic, writer John Jackson Miller introduced the determined Jedi Kerra Holt as well as her two twisted Sith antagonists: Lord Daiman, who believes

that he created reality for his amusement, and Lord Odion, who wants nothing more than to plunge reality into a pit of fire. The conclusion of "Allame" pits Sith against Sith and sets things up for Miller's upcoming *Knight Errant* novel from Del Rey (see story on page 60).

"The Kerra Holt we see at the end of "Allame" is changed by the events of that storyline," says Miller. "She's come to understand that her personal mission as a Jedi alone in Sith space is different than the mission she began with. She's not an

army; she's not the whole Jedi Order. She has to zero in on things that matter, things that will help as many people as possible."

Kerra's fateful decision is to go even deeper into Lord Daiman's kingdom, the Daimanite, and it is there that readers will find her at the start of the *Knight Errant* novel. Explains Miller, "There's no going home again."

Knight Errant's battle-hardened characters and its Sith-haunted setting, the Grumani sector, all come from the mind of Miller, who previously developed a similarly

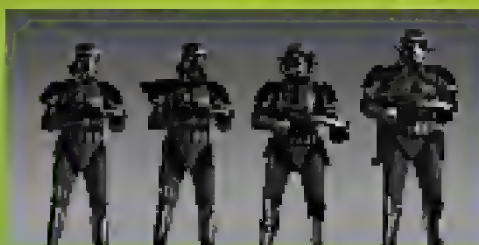


ASK LOBOT

As related to Lobot Y. Dook

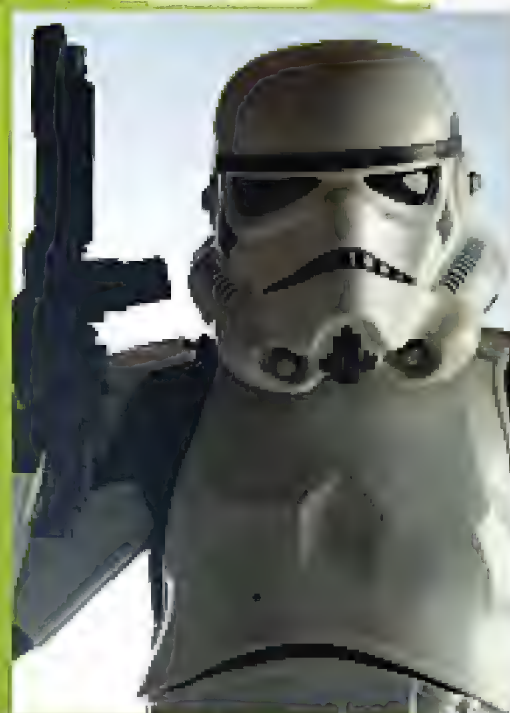
HAS JAMIE PERE FRANK EVER READ a similar article to "Send in the Clones" (Issue #52, March/April 2004), but on stormtroopers? I would particularly like to know more about storm commandos and the enigmatic, heavily armored troopers, Magma troopers, covert ops clone troopers, Wispas shadow troopers, and shadow stormtroopers, as well as the other less well-known stormtrooper types.

Nigel Harris, Australia, via e-mail
Glad to hear you liked the "Send in the Clones" article; we always



appreciate your feedback.

Regarding a reference for stormtroopers, probably one of the earliest and best references for stormtroopers and all things Imperial was the *Imperial Sourcebook* published by West End Games in 1989. Though we haven't yet seen a similar comprehensive reference tool for the Empire, expect the *Essential Guide to Warfare* by Jason Fry due out in 2011 from Random House to include many details about the Empire.





immersive world for the *Knights of the Old Republic* comics. As he has developed *Knight Errant's* overarching story he has gained a deeper appreciation for the manner in which the puzzle pieces fit together. "Just like Kerra, I began with a narrow understanding of what was going on in the galactic neighborhood we visit in the comics," he says. "But unlike her, I had already figured out some things about how Daiman and Odion's conflict fit into the bigger picture. And as of 'Affame,' Kerra doesn't even know that there *is* a bigger picture."

And how exactly does a single Jedi—and a young and inexperienced one at that—hope to stand up to two veteran Sith Lords? Miller reveals that Kerra Holt has a secret weapon: her relentless willpower. "With only herself to count on, she's constantly looking at every situation and trying to figure out her next move," he says. "That makes her a perfect foil for Lord Daiman, who thinks existence is all a game anyway."

Miller describes the overall *Knight Errant* project as a tapestry, one that will tell a larger, more layered story when

taken as a whole. But readers will be able to hit the ground running whether they jump aboard for the comics, novel, or both. After "Affame," the *Knight Errant* comics will continue with a second story arc in 2011, set after the events of the novel for readers keeping track of the timeline.

"My expectation is that I'll continue to draw on all the works we've done in both media, but that every story will be complete in and of itself," he says. "Each story will add to Kerra's character, and will add something to the overall portrait of Sith space at this point in history."

INCOMING

INSIDER PREVIEWS THE LATEST *STAR WARS* GEAR YOU'LL WANT IN YOUR COLLECTION! WORDS: CHRIS SPITALE

LEGO

Clone Trooper Battle Pack

As the Clone Wars rage across the galaxy, the Army of the Republic faces a powerful new enemy—the Mandalorians! Fans can build their crack team of clone troopers along with the BARC speeder, the all-new ARF clone trooper, two new bomb squad clone troopers, and the new clone commander mini-figures. The set is made up of 85 LEGO pieces, and is suitable for ages six and up. The suggested retail price is \$11.99.



Mandalorian Battle Pack

They're the latest thorn in the Republic's side in *The Clone Wars*—the Mandalorians! Fans can take the battle to the clone army with a Mandalorian speeder, blaster, turret, and four Mandalorian mini-figures, each with its own unique weapon. The set includes one Mandalorian assassin and three Mandalorian troopers. The pack includes 68 LEGO pieces, and is suitable for ages six and up. The pack is priced at \$11.99.



The Battle of Naboo

The invasion of the planet Naboo has begun! Builders can help the Trade Federation deploy its vast battle droid army from the Trade Federation troop carriers, while Jar Jar Binks and his fellow Gungans prepare to repel the invasion. Includes eight battle droids with blasters, two droid pilots, Jar Jar Binks, and Gungan scout mini-figures. The set has 241 LEGO pieces, suitable for ages seven and up. It retails at \$24.99.



Imperial V-wing Starfighter

After the fall of the Galactic Republic at the end of the Clone Wars, the V-wing starfighter became one of the first fighters of the growing Empire. With working cockpit and rotating wings for flying and landing modes, builders can use the Imperial V-wing to hunt down the Rebel Alliance. Includes Imperial pilot and astromech droid R2-Q2 mini-figures. It's made up of 139 LEGO pieces, and is suitable for fans age seven and up. The retail price is \$19.99.



Bounty Hunter Assault Gunship

While the outcome of the Clone Wars hangs in the balance, bounty hunters are out to capture the Jedi! With rotating engines for flying and landing modes, opening cockpit, laser cannons, and a prison cell for captured Jedi, the bounty hunters' assault gunship is ready for the job. Includes all-new Sugi, Aurra Sing, Embo, and IG-88 assassin droid bounty hunter mini-figures. The set includes 389 LEGO pieces. It's suitable for ages eight and up, and the suggested retail price is \$49.99.



T-6 Jedi Shuttle

Racing to a distant Clone Wars battlefield in their T-6 shuttle, the Jedi have been ambushed by bounty hunters! However, with its flick missiles, a rotating wing for flying mode, and a detachable cockpit that turns into an escape pod, the Jedi shuttle may be more than a match for the bounty hunters' gunship. Includes Anakin Skywalker, Obi-Wan Kenobi, and all-new Jedi Masters Shaak Ti and Saesee Tiin mini-figures. The shuttle set is made up of 389 LEGO pieces. Suitable for ages eight and up, the set costs \$59.99 in stores.





SIDESHOW

Darth Sidious Legendary Scale Bust

Behind a curtain of secrecy lurks Darth Sidious, the mysterious Sith Lord and puppet master of the tumultuous events that will bring an end to the Republic. Joining Sideshow's award-winning line of *Star Wars* collectibles, the Darth Sidious Legendary Scale Bust depicts the Sith Master in outstanding detail. The bust ships in the second quarter of 2011, and is priced at \$249.99.



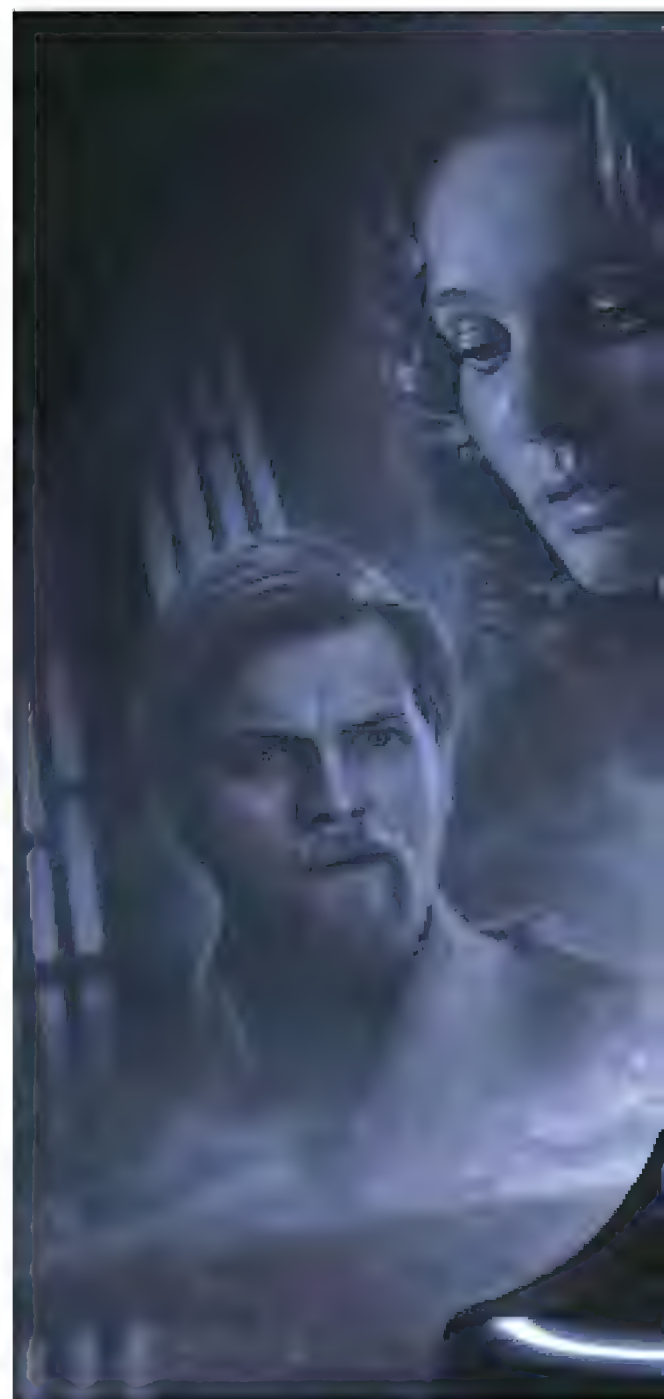
"Revenge of the Jedi" Diorama

Sideshow Collectibles presents the "Revenge of the Jedi"—Anakin Skywalker vs. Tusken Raiders diorama, depicting the pivotal turning point of the young Jedi Padawan. As seen in *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones*, Anakin unleashes his fury in a visceral attack on an unsuspecting Tusken camp. Each diorama is individually painted and finished, with details that are the trademark of handcrafted Sideshow Collectibles Dioramas. The diorama is priced at £299.99, and it ships in the second quarter of 2011.

ACME ARCHIVES

"Ruminations"

In "Ruminations" by artist Jerry VanderStelt, Vader kneels in his meditation chamber, remembering those he loved—his wife Padmé, and the man who was like a brother to him, Obi-Wan. A signed giclée print on canvas is available in a limited run of 75 at a retail price of \$325 and measuring 20 x 27 inches. The unsigned paper version measures 17 x 22 inches, and is \$145.



"Regrets"

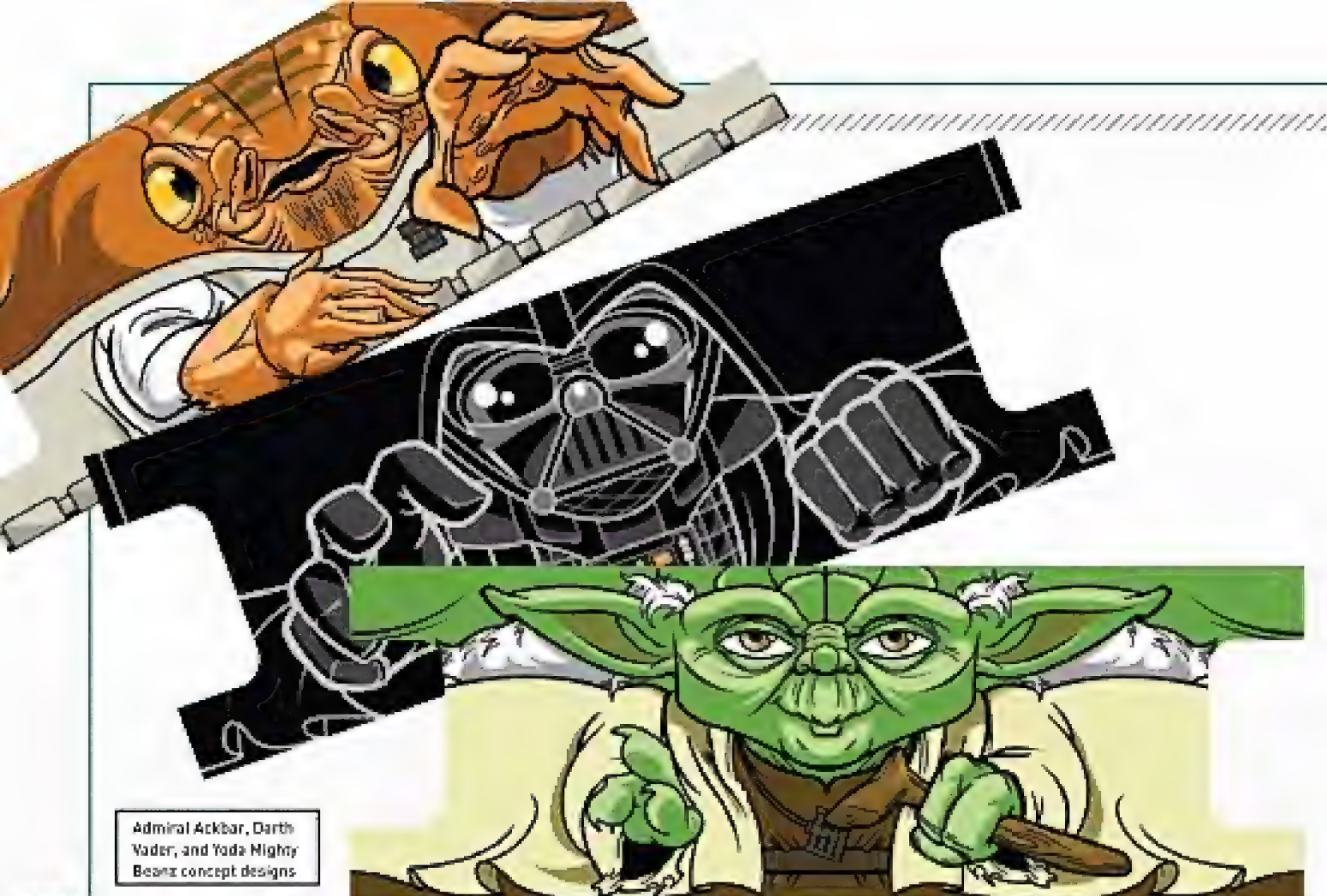
His helmet covered in raindrops, Darth Vader contemplates his past actions, his thoughts known only to himself in "Regrets" by the artist Masey. The artwork is available in a limited edition of 195 giclée prints on canvas, signed by the artist, at a retail price of \$395. It measures 20 x 30 inches. An unsigned paper version of the print measuring 17 x 22 inches, retails for \$165.



"Jango Fett"

The feared bounty hunter and template for the clone army, Jango Fett faces his death at the hands of Jedi Master Mace Windu, the Jedi reflected in his impassive visor. Signed by artist Christian Waggoner, this giclée print on canvas, limited to 95 18 x 28 inch prints, retails for \$375. The 13 x 19 inches unsigned paper version retails at \$125.





Admiral Ackbar, Darth Vader, and Yoda Mighty Beanz concept designs

THE MIGHTY BEANZ

THEY'RE TINY AS BEANS AND MIGHTY AS THE FORCE! INTRODUCING MIGHTY BEANZ BY SPIN MASTER! *INSIDER* SPEAKS WITH SPIN MASTER'S DIRECTOR OF BOYS ACTION DESIGN, FRASER PATERSON, FOR THE FULL STORY ON THE LATEST *STAR WARS* COLLECTING CRAZE.

Star Wars Insider: So what exactly are Mighty Beanz?

Fraser Paterson: Mighty Beanz are fun [because of] their simplicity. They're basically large "beans" securely containing ball bearings to allow for quirky end-over-end movement, and they're adorned with fun character graphics.

How does *Star Wars* lend itself to the Mighty Beanz platform?

The *Star Wars* universe offers a tremendous number of characters that allows us to create a comprehensive line with many variations.

What are your plans for the *Star Wars* line?

Currently we're planning three



"The early waves were really dictated by the natural 'greatest hits' of the *Star Wars* universe"

seasons of Beanz, with one season every six months. There are roughly 60 Beanz per season, not including extra Beanz exclusive to such items as the Darth Vader collector tin and the super-deformed *Millennium Falcon* collector case. Within each season there are three waves, and within those waves there are common, rare and ultra-rare Beanz, as well as "chase beans" found within the collector cases and tins.

How did you determine which characters to focus on in the first waves?

The early waves were really dictated by the natural "greatest hits" of the *Star Wars* universe, but we were still careful not to release all the main characters in one go.



Above: Darth Vader Mighty Beanz-shaped character design

What artistic direction was given for the character stylizations?

We wanted to have a basic "vector" (flat color) style to the artwork. It's very easy to draw up an elaborate depiction of a *Star Wars* character, but on the small scale of the bean, those great details can be lost. So we focused on the key features to simplify the character yet keep them recognizable.



Which characters have been the most difficult to capture?

Some of the human characters were tough. A droid or Imperial uniform is a collection of geometric shapes that can be scaled down well. The humans, however, rely on the skill of the artist to make them recognizable within the same size. For example, the young Anakin Skywalker bean could not rely on a height difference to make

him look like a child, so larger eyes were used to convey this. For Han Solo, his suave character was portrayed using his eyebrow shape and position. Most of the characters have closed mouths to keep the required detail down. However, the Emperor Palpatine bean has his mouth open, as the dirty gray teeth help add to his overall demeanor.

What are the biggest challenges for the line?

Due to the limitations of the production process, some of the characters are more challenging. The main graphic that's wrapped around the body is a transfer label, and the top graphic is stamped on the double curvature of the bean. The top stamp can only contain a couple of colors, so we have to agree on what colors we'll use and make sure they both align in production.

Mighty Beanz *Millennium Falcon* concept design (above left) and components (above right)



What's the development process like for each one?

We initially had our artist come up with a range of styles and decided upon the one we thought worked best for the medium. Bearing in mind the double curvature of the bean at the top and bottom, it took a few attempts for us to be happy, and then this was treated as a benchmark for the following characters. Then we worked with Lucasfilm to ensure that they were happy with the direction. We're basically a bunch of *Star Wars* geeks, so we want to give the brand the respect it deserves! 🍌

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FETT MANIA!

I recently attended the Movie Mania event at the National Space Centre in Leicester, England, where I got to meet Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett) and Warwick Davis (Wicket), who were great guys and a pleasure to talk to. The best part was that I managed to get my picture taken with the original Mr Fett himself. What's really cool about this "hunted down" shot is the fact that Jeremy is in his Fett armor without the helmet, which he only took off for a few seconds to show it really was him in the costume as he was trooping with the U.K. Garrison for a short time at the event!

Darren Bell, Leeds, England



THE EMPIRE STRIKES CHICAGO

I love your magazine, and wanted to tell you about a recent experience I had in Chicago at the Field Museum. As you probably already know, George Lucas came through Chicago for the 30th Anniversary screening of *The Empire Strikes Back*. Being a lifelong *Star Wars* fan, and *ESB* being my favorite movie in the series, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to possibly meet him. So here's my best shot. I got an autograph from him as well, not to mention a lifetime memory. Thanks George Lucas!

Kevin McCormick, Chicago, Illinois

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FATHER'S DAY!

I was lucky enough to meet Daniel Logan at a convention down here in Perth, Australia. He was amazingly enthusiastic and helped present an award to our newest honorary member - a four-year-old child who has cancer. I got the chance to thank Daniel for helping out and I even surprised him with a lovely shirt!

Marcin Szlampa, Perth, Australia



WONDROUS WOOKIEE!

Here is a photo of me with Peter Mayhew, who I met in August, 2010 at the Fan Expo in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. I waited so anxiously to shake his hand, not only because Chewbacca is and always will be my favorite *Star Wars* character, but because Peter Mayhew did such an excellent job at making this awesome Wookiee come to life. He was really nice and let me take this photo with him. Afterwards I felt as giddy as a little kid!

Laura Koskocky, Burlington, Ontario, Canada



CLONE COMMANDER!

The first picture (left) is of me in my Sgt. Sinker costume with a fan at the Stars of Hope Charity event in Pinellas Park, Florida. Members of the Florida Garrison of the 501st help raise funds for different children's charities like Make-A-Wish, St. Jude's, and local charitable organizations. The other photo (above left) is of me meeting Dave Filoni this past summer! It was great getting to know him, as he went into detail as to how and why clone trooper armor is painted. Wow!

Dave Young TC1855, Florida Garrison, Tampa Squad, Florida





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BANTHA TRACKS

BY THE FANS
FOR THE FANS

COSPLAY AND EFFECT

Star Wars has to have one of the most lively costuming communities in the area of film and television, with worldwide fans around the world regularly dressing up as stormtroopers, clones, and Jedi for conventions and other events. Many of them do so for good causes, like raising money for charities, cheering up kids and adults in hospitals, and working on community projects. We asked *Insider* readers to send us their cosplay photos, and they responded!

Boba Phat. Photo supplied by David James.



Star Wars cosplay brings out the creative side in many fans, who come up with their own takes on the characters we know and love. "Here are a few pictures of me as Boba Phat," says David James of Costa Mesa, California. "Mandalorians need a little chill time once in a while, as all work and no play wears a fellow out! I've been wearing this costume to conventions since 2007. It represents no exact timeline, and fits in with the current *Clone Wars* series as well as the original trilogy, entertaining fans young and old." Boba Phat certainly gets around, as James explains. "I've been to the Los Angeles and Orlando *Star Wars* Celebrations, all the San Diego Comic-Cons since 2007, tons of smaller California cons, the *Star Wars* Concert in LA, and many other events. I've appeared on *G4* next to Olivia Munn, been mentioned on TV by Kristen Bell, and count Adrienne Curry, Seth Green, and Jane Wiedlin from the *Go-Go's* as some of my 'fans.'"

GET IN TRACKS!



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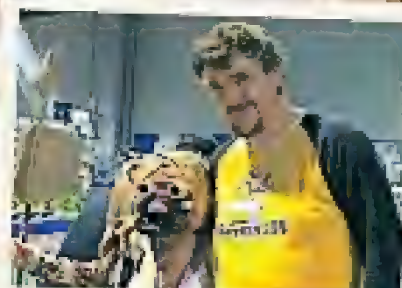


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GET IN TRACKS!



Boba Phat seems to have brought out the creative side in his friends too, as cosplay fan Shannon Thier writes, "Last year on my birthday at Long Beach Comic Con, I wore my Tusken Raver costume. People who understood what my costume was loved it! The outfit includes *Star Wars* 8-tracks as a bandolier, a rave light-up Galfi stick, and toys such as little Jawas, a handmade Bantha backpack, a shirt that says "My Other Ride Is a Bantha," plus the GWAAAAAAAAAAAAARRRR personality to match!"

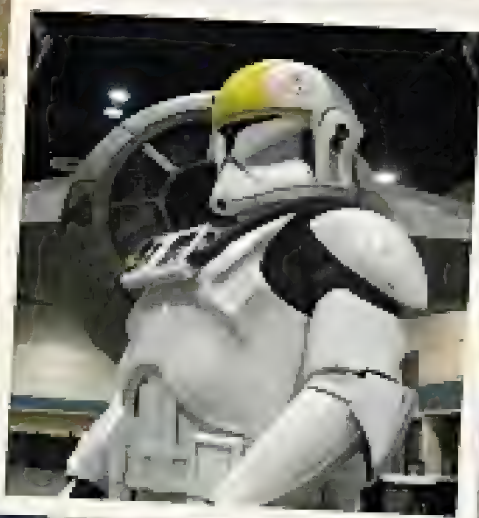
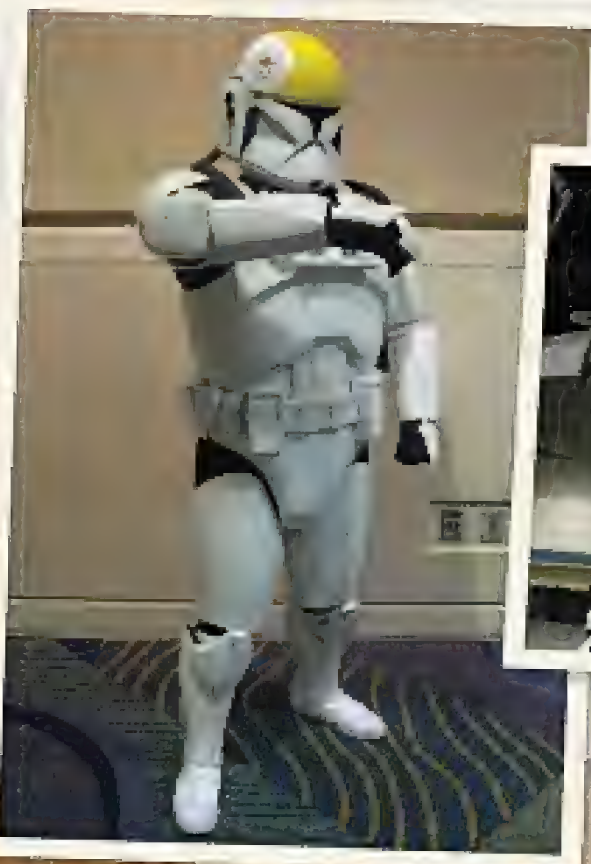


Photos supplied by Shannon Thier.
Tusken Raver and Boba Phat photo by Casey Puch.

Like their screen counterparts, cosplay troopers are also often assigned to perform guard duty for important dignitaries! As Eugene Shim of Sacramento, California writes, "Members of the 501st Legion's Central California Garrison had the opportunity to accompany Billy Dee Williams as he was signing autographs at the 2010 Sacramento Sci-Fi Horror Convention." Pictured here with Williams, Shim continues, "It's always a great opportunity to stand alongside celebrities from the *Star Wars* saga. Fortunately, I was able to complete my clone trooper armor just in time for this event."



Photo by Mark Chu-Lin.



Photos by Bret Lonsway.

Ever since their introduction in *Attack of the Clones*, clone troopers have been a popular choice for *Star Wars* cosplayers, rivaling the original trilogy's stormtroopers. Mark Chu-Lin of California writes, "As a member of the 501st Legion, I would like to present my Episode II *Attack of the Clones* clone trooper costume. Some friends in the Legion completed this outfit for me in time for *Star Wars* Celebration V."





BANTHA
TRACKS



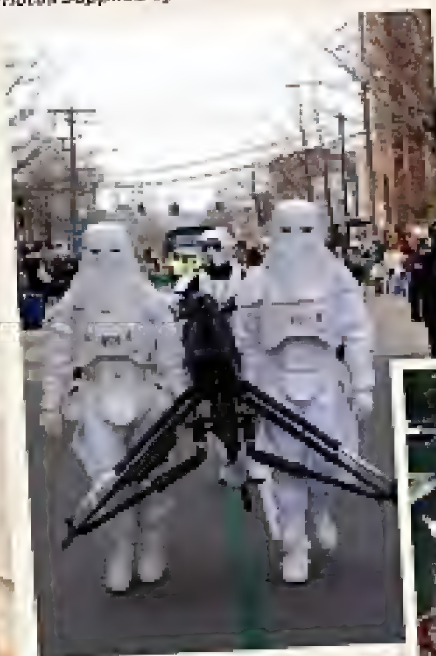
Charitable work is a core part of costume activities, with groups like the 501st Legion regularly visiting children's hospitals to give kids a morale boost. As Mark Chu-Lin writes, "For about eight years, the 501st Legion's Central California Garrison has conducted visits to the Northern California Shriners Hospital and the Sacramento Sutter Child Life Center. We have worked in partnership with members of the Rebel Legion's Endor base, local R2 builders and other costumers." We see them here visiting with kids and hospital staff, with a little super-heroic help from Batman, War Machine, and Captain America!



Photos
supplied by Mark
Chu-Lin. Child
Life Center
photos taken
by Chris and
Patricia C.



Photos supplied by Matthew Peters.



When you're a cosplay stormtrooper, you have to get used to extreme conditions! Matthew Peters of Connecticut cosplays as both an Imperial snowtrooper, and a fire-fighting stormtrooper! Matthew explains: "The snowtrooper event was a St. Patrick's Day parade that we did as a fundraiser for New Haven Children's Hospital. The stormtrooper event was at Foxwoods Fire Department for October's Fire Prevention For Children Month hosted by the fire departments of the state." Whether in snow or flames, a trooper's work is never done.



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Photos supplied by Joanne Beck.

A cosplay clone trooper who's doing her bit to help some real-life heroes is Great Britain's Joanne Beck. Joanne writes, "I costume as Captain Rex, as the Commanding Officer of the Galactic Knights costuming club. The photos show me and other members from the Galactic Knights and some friends from the Dark Agents during fundraising for the Royal British Legion's annual Poppy Appeal in aid of service personnel and their families. Our actions helped the charity raise in excess of £5,000 (or nearly \$8,000)."

BEST DRESSED

It's safe to say that since I started working on *Bantha Tracks* in 2002 every issue has had at least one photo of a *Star Wars* fan's costume.

Anyone who reads the stories that go with the photographs knows that there are usually interesting, often selfless and charitable reasons for these folks to dress up as characters from the *Star Wars* saga.

In *Star Wars* fandom, costuming goes far beyond construction expertise. Costumers have to adhere to strict, movie-real guidelines to have their costumes accepted into many organizations, and are required to put in a minimum number of costumed hours in service to charity or community.

Recently, in correspondence with a member of the 501st Legion, I was reminded that the worldwide Imperial costuming group does not costume primarily to promote the *Star Wars* brand. Its members costume for fun and for charity. They costume to be a part of a worldwide community of friends, and they costume to bring joy to others.

I really can't think of better ambassadors for *Star Wars* than our organized fan groups.

As one of the liaisons between Lucasfilm and the *Star Wars* fan community, I have many reasons to communicate with these costuming groups, primarily the 501st Legion and the Rebel Legion, but also the Jedi Assembly, Mandalorian Mercs, R2-D2 Builders, Fan Force groups, and many more. They are consummate professionals. They might be making and wearing costumes for fun, but they treat *Star Wars* fandom, events, and costuming with first-class, responsible attitudes. I could not ask for better "co-workers."

In addition to being professionals,



Tusken Mary! Photo by Steven Farr.

they are simply a heck of a lot of fun to be around and to work with. They give me a lot of joy, and they make me proud to be part of this community.

Get in Tracks!

Mary Franklin
Editor

Bantha Tracks



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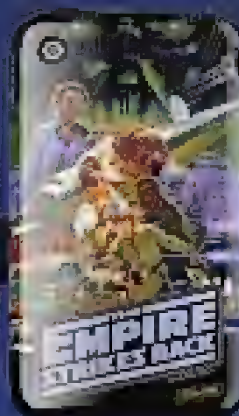
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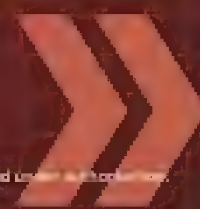
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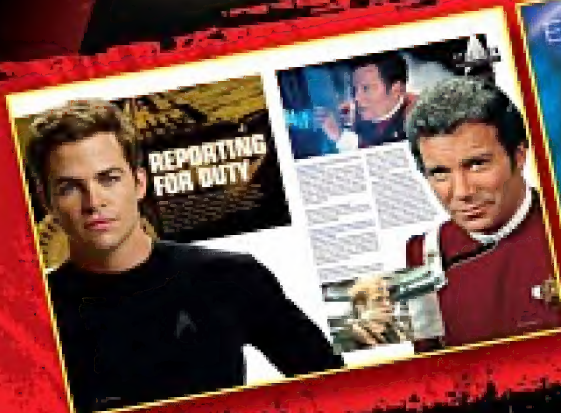
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